

**BEFORE THE  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**In the Matter of the Accusation Against:**

**Genara Turallo Dela Roca, M.D.**

**Physician's and Surgeon's  
Certificate No. A 74083**

**Respondent.**

**Case No. 800-2020-070176**

**DECISION**

**The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.**

**This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on December 31, 2024.**

**IT IS SO ORDERED JUN 11 2024.**

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**



**Reji Varghese, Executive Director**

1 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
2 STEVE DIEHL  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 LYNETTE D. HECKER  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 182198  
California Department of Justice  
5 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090  
Fresno, CA 93721  
6 Telephone: (559) 705-2320  
Facsimile: (559) 445-5106  
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8  
9 **BEFORE THE**  
**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

13 **GENARA TURALLO DELA ROCA, M.D.**  
14 **11509 Haydock Ct.**  
**Bakersfield, CA 93311-9284**

15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A**  
**74083**

16 Respondent.  
17

Case No: 800-2020-070176

OAH No. 2023120663

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF  
LICENSE AND ORDER**

18  
19 **IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the**  
20 **above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:**

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of  
23 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this  
24 matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Lynette D. Hecker, Deputy  
25 Attorney General.

26 2. GENARA TURALLO DELA ROCA, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this  
27 proceeding by attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq., whose address is: 5440 Trabuco Road,  
28 Irvine, CA 92620.

3. On or about March 15, 2001, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 74083 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2020-070176 and will expire on September 30, 2024, unless renewed.

## JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2020-070176 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on August 14, 2023. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2020-070176 is attached as “Exhibit A” and incorporated by reference.

## ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2020-070176. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

## CULPABILITY

8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2020-070176, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

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9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.

10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

## RESERVATION

11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

## CONTINGENCY

12. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the Medical Board “shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a ... stipulation for surrender of a license.”

13. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, she enables the Executive Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 74083 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.

14. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands

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1 and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the  
2 time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

3 15. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order  
4 shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the  
5 Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full  
6 force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to  
7 approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive  
8 Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the  
9 Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the  
10 Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future  
11 participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the  
12 Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this  
13 Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it  
14 shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied  
15 upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees  
16 that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason  
17 by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the  
18 Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review,  
19 discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or  
20 of any matter or matters related hereto.

#### 21 ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

22 16. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties  
23 herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of  
24 the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

25 17. The parties agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this  
26 Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile copies of  
27 the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures and,  
28 further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.

18. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the Executive Director of the Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

**ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 74083, issued to Respondent GENARA TURALLO DELA ROCA, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.

2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a physician in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her pocket license and, if one was issued, her wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order. The effective date of the Board's Decision and Order shall be on the date specified by the Board, but in no event shall it be earlier than December 31, 2024.

4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2020-070176 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$67,980.25 (sixty-seven thousand, nine hundred, eighty dollars and twenty-five cents) prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of

1 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2020-070176 shall  
2 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of  
3 Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

4 **ACCEPTANCE**

5 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully  
6 discussed it with my attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the  
7 effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated  
8 Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound  
9 by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

10 DATED: 30/05/24 Dr. Dela Roca (May 30, 2024 16:03 PDT)  
11 GENARA TURALLO DELA ROCA, M.D.  
Respondent

12 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent GENARA TURALLO DELA ROCA,  
13 M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License  
14 and Order. I approve its form and content.

15 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_  
16 RAYMOND J. McMAHON, ESQ.  
Attorney for Respondent

17  
18 **ENDORSEMENT**

19 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted  
20 for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

21 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully submitted,  
22 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
23 STEVE DIEHL  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
24

25  
26 LYNETTE D. HECKER  
Deputy Attorney General  
Attorneys for Complainant  
27

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1 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2020-070176 shall  
2 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of  
3 Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

4 **ACCEPTANCE**

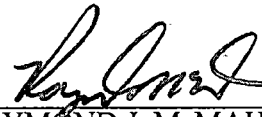
5 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully  
6 discussed it with my attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the  
7 effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated  
8 Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound  
9 by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

10 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

11 GENARA TURALLO DELA ROCA, M.D.  
12 *Respondent*

13 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent GENARA TURALLO DELA ROCA,  
14 M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License  
15 and Order. I approve its form and content.

16 DATED: May 30, 2024

17   
18 RAYMOND J. McMAHON, ESQ.  
19 *Attorney for Respondent*

20 **ENDORSEMENT**

21 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted  
22 for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

23 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

24 Respectfully submitted,

25 ROB BONTA  
26 Attorney General of California  
27 STEVE DIEHL  
28 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

LYNETTE D. HECKER  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

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1 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2020-070176 shall  
2 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of  
3 Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

4 **ACCEPTANCE**

5 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully  
6 discussed it with my attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the  
7 effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated  
8 Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound  
9 by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

10 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

11 GENARA TURALLO DELA ROCA, M.D.  
12 *Respondent*

13 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent GENARA TURALLO DELA ROCA,  
14 M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License  
15 and Order. I approve its form and content.

16 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

17 RAYMOND J. McMAHON, ESQ.  
18 *Attorney for Respondent*


19 **ENDORSEMENT**

20 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted  
21 for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

22 DATED: 5/31/2024

23 Respectfully submitted,

24 ROB BONTA  
25 Attorney General of California  
26 STEVE DIEHL  
27 Supervising Deputy Attorney General

28 

LYNETTE D. HECKER  
Deputy Attorney General  
Attorneys for Complainant

**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 800-2020-070176**

1 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
2 STEVE DIEHL  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 LYNETTE D. HECKER  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 182198  
California Department of Justice  
5 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090  
Fresno, CA 93721  
6 Telephone: (559) 705-2320  
Facsimile: (559) 445-5106  
7 E-mail: Lynette.Hecker@doj.ca.gov  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

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**BEFORE THE  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2020-070176

**Genara Turallo Dela Roca, M.D.  
11509 Haydock Ct.  
Bakersfield, CA 93311**

**A C C U S A T I O N**

**Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
No. A 74083,**

Respondent.

Complainant alleges:

**PARTIES**

1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

2. On or about March 15, 2001, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 74083 to Genara Turallo Dela Roca, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2024, unless renewed.

## JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 2227 of the Code states:

(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:

(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.

(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.

(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the board.

(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.

(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.

(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1.

## STATUTORY PROVISIONS

5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.

(b) Gross negligence.

(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute

repeated negligent acts.

(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.

(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

(d) Incompetence.

(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

(f) Any action or conduct that would have warranted the denial of a certificate.

(g) The failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend and participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board.

6. Section 2266 of the Code states: The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct.

#### COST RECOVERY

7. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licensee to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

#### DEFINITIONS

8. The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status classification system is a grading system to determine the health of a person before a surgical procedure that requires anesthesia. It helps predict the patient's risk of surgical complications, along with other factors like the type of surgery, the patient's age, the extent of the procedure, surgery timeframe

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1 and more. ASA classification uses a grading system of 1 (one) through 5 (five), with 1  
2 identifying a person in good health and 5 as a person with a severe, life-threatening condition.

3 9. An arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat, is a problem with the rate or rhythm of a  
4 patient's heartbeat. The heart may beat too quickly, too slowly, or with an irregular rhythm.

5 10. Asystole is a type of cardiac arrest, which is when the heart stops beating entirely.

6 11. Atrial fibrillation (AF or Afib) is a type of arrhythmia, or abnormal heartbeat, which  
7 is caused by extremely fast and irregular beats from the upper chambers of the heart (usually  
8 more than 400 beats per minute).

9 12. Atropine is a medication given before anesthesia to decrease mucus secretions, such as  
10 saliva. During anesthesia and surgery, atropine is used to help keep the heart beat normal.

11 13. Bradycardia is a low heart rate.

12 14. Calcium chloride is a mineral indicated in the immediate treatment patients with  
13 abnormally low levels of calcium in the body that cause muscle spasm. It is also used in cardiac  
14 resuscitation after a heart attack which causes decreased cardiac contraction, resulting in the use  
15 of calcium as a treatment in cardiac surgery.

16 15. Debridement is removal of dead or unhealthy tissue from a wound. Doctors do this to  
17 help a wound heal.

18 16. Dopamine is a chemical released in the brain that makes people feel good. Having  
19 the right amount of dopamine is important both for the body and the brain. Dopamine helps  
20 nerve cells to send messages to each other. It is useful both during surgery and post-surgery  
21 treatment of patients with low cardiac output states after open-heart surgery.

22 17. General anesthesia is a state of controlled unconsciousness where medicines are used  
23 to send a patient to sleep, so the patient is unaware of surgery and does not move or feel pain  
24 while it's carried out.

25 18. Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) records the electrical signal from the heart to check  
26 for different heart conditions. Electrodes are placed on the chest to record the heart's electrical  
27 signals, which cause the heart to beat.

28 ///

1        19. An endotracheal tube is a tube that is placed between the vocal cords through the  
2 trachea. It serves to provide oxygen and inhaled gases to the lungs and protects the lungs from  
3 contamination, such as gastric contents or blood.

4        20. Ephedrine is FDA-approved primarily for the treatment of clinically significant  
5 hypotension perioperatively. Induction of general anesthesia and ongoing anesthesia during  
6 operative cases results in vasodilatation and hypotension, requiring treatment with vasopressors.

7        21. Epinephrine is a medication commonly used in surgeries to reduce the blood loss; the  
8 lowest and the most effective dosage of epinephrine can improve the results of the surgery.

9        22. Gangrene is a serious condition where a loss of blood supply causes body tissue to  
10 die. Wet gangrene occurs if bacteria invade this tissue. This makes the area swell, drain fluid,  
11 and smell bad. It may develop after a severe burn, frostbite, or other injury. It often occurs in  
12 people with diabetes who unknowingly injure a toe or foot.

13        23. Gastroesophageal reflux (GER or GERDs or reflux) happens when a patient's  
14 stomach contents come back up into their esophagus.

15        24. Glycopyrrolate has been widely used as a preoperative medication to inhibit salivary  
16 gland and respiratory secretions. The most frequent reasons for administering it is to create a  
17 sedative and amnesic effect, and to prevent reflex bradycardia.

18        25. Intubate means to insert a tube into (a person or a body part, especially the trachea for  
19 ventilation).

20        26. Lidocaine belongs to the family of medicines called local anesthetics. It prevents  
21 pain by blocking the signals at the nerve endings in the skin. It does not cause unconsciousness as  
22 general anesthetics do when used for surgery.

23        27. Neuromonitoring is used during surgery to assess the functional integrity of the brain,  
24 brainstem, spinal cord, or peripheral and cranial nerves.

25        28. Neuromuscular blockade is frequently used in anesthesia to facilitate endotracheal  
26 intubation, optimize surgical conditions, and assist with mechanical ventilation in patients who  
27 have reduced lung compliance.

28        ///

1       29. Non-shockable rhythms are rhythms of the heart that are not amenable to shock,  
2 including pulseless electrical activity and asystole. In these cases, identifying primary causation,  
3 performing good CPR, and administering epinephrine are the only tools to resuscitate the patient.

4       30. Pepcid or Tagamet reduce the flow of stomach acid and help prevent an upset  
5 stomach from medications before, during, and after surgery.

6       31. Towards the end of pregnancy, a hormone called oxytocin stimulates the uterine  
7 muscles and causes contractions that begin the process of labor. Pitocin® is a synthetic version of  
8 oxytocin, and doctors use this IV medication for labor induction.

9       32. The body produces pleural fluid in small amounts to lubricate the surfaces of the  
10 pleura. This is the thin tissue that lines the chest cavity and surrounds the lungs. Pleural effusion  
11 is an abnormal, excessive collection of this fluid.

12       33. Propofol is an intravenous anesthetic used for procedural sedation, during monitored  
13 anesthesia care, or as an induction agent for general anesthesia. It may be administered as a  
14 concentrated single dose or an infusion, or some combination of the two.

15       34. Sinus tachycardia is a common condition that happens sometimes in response to  
16 stressful situations wherein the heart beats more than 100 times per minute. It usually returns to  
17 normal after the stressful event has passed.

18       35. Sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection. It is a life-threatening medical  
19 emergency. It happens when an infection already in the body triggers a chain reaction throughout  
20 the body. Infections that lead to sepsis most often start in the lung, urinary tract, skin, or  
21 gastrointestinal tract.

22       36. Sleep apnea is a potentially serious sleep disorder in which breathing repeatedly stops  
23 and starts.

24       37. Sodium bicarbonate (SB) administration has been considered an important part of  
25 treatment for severe metabolic acidosis (buildup of acid in the body) in cardiac arrest, because  
26 normalization of extracellular and intracellular acid-base balance is considered a meaningful  
27 endpoint of resuscitation.

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1 38. Toradol, also known as ketorolac, is a medication frequently used for pain relief after  
2 surgery. It is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), which works to reduce pain by  
3 interfering with the body's production of hormones that influence pain.

4 39. Transcutaneous pacing is where an electrodes-based medical device is used to  
5 regulate the contractility of specialized cells in the heart that are capable of producing and  
6 transmitting electrical activity. The device helps to maintain adequate heart rate and so cardiac  
7 output.

8 40. A peripheral nerve stimulator, also known as a train-of-four monitor, is used to assess  
9 neuromuscular transmission when neuromuscular blocking agents are given to block  
10 musculoskeletal activity.

11 41. Peripheral vascular disease is the reduced circulation of blood to a body part, other  
12 than the brain or heart, due to a narrowed or blocked blood vessel.

13 42. Vasodilators are medications that dilate (open) blood vessels. They affect the muscles  
14 in the walls of the arteries and veins, preventing the muscles from tightening and the walls from  
15 narrowing. As a result, blood flows more easily through the vessels.

16 43. Zofran is used to prevent nausea and vomiting that may be caused by surgery, cancer  
17 chemotherapy, or radiation treatment.

#### 18 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

19 44. At all times relevant to the charges brought herein, Respondent worked as an  
20 anesthesiologist at a hospital in Bakersfield, California. Respondent was the anesthesiologist for  
21 each of the patients discussed below who were undergoing various surgical procedures.

#### 22 Patient #1<sup>1</sup>

23 45. On or about December 11, 2017, Patient #1, a 47-year-old male with back pain that  
24 radiated down into his leg, presented for back surgery. Pre-operatively, Respondent performed a  
25 focused history and physical, and found he also had a history of high blood pressure, obstructive  
26 sleep apnea, and high cholesterol, and determined him to be American Society of  
27 Anesthesiologists (ASA) status 3 with a plan for general anesthesia. During the procedure,

28 <sup>1</sup> The patients' names are redacted to protect their privacy.

1 Respondent appropriately placed the patient on ASA-standard monitors and utilized  
2 neuromuscular blockade in the setting of neuromonitoring. Respondent did not utilize train-of-  
3 four monitoring to assess the depth of the neuromuscular blockade, and the patient moved during  
4 the operation.

5 Patient #2

6 46. On or about January 17, 2019, Patient #2, a 67 year-old-male who had had back  
7 surgery ten (10) days previously, presented to the hospital for an urgent removal of an  
8 accumulation of blood in the area of the surgery that was compressing his spinal cord.  
9 Respondent was on call that day, but was told there was another anesthesiologist available for this  
10 surgery, so left the hospital. However, the other anesthesiologist became unavailable, and  
11 Respondent was unable to be reached despite multiple calls and text messages. Another  
12 anesthesiologist had to be found to staff this surgery.

13 Patient #3

14 47. On or about January 22, 2019, Patient #3, a 93-year-old woman with a history of  
15 asthma and hypertension, was admitted for surgery to repair a broken hip. Pre-operatively,  
16 Respondent performed a focused history and physical, noting Patient #3 had a history of reflux  
17 and diabetes. Her note includes vital signs (blood pressure averaged 110s/60s, which is low) and  
18 labs and notes a weight of 43 kg. Respondent assessed Patient #3 to be ASA status 3 and planned  
19 for general anesthesia. At or around the beginning of the procedure, the surgeon inquired of  
20 Respondent about Patient #3's low blood pressure; Respondent was not concerned. During the  
21 procedure, Patient #3 became unstable and the surgeon asked Respondent if Patient #3 had a  
22 pulse, was breathing, or if there was a blood pressure. Respondent did not respond, but at some  
23 point she stated "I need help." At or about 12:25,<sup>2</sup> Patient #3 went into cardiac arrest.  
24 Respondent administered epinephrine 1 mg at that time, and then atropine 1 mg at or about 12:27.  
25 Return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) was noted at or about 12:27 with a rhythm of sinus  
26 tachycardia. Respondent noted additional medications subsequently given included ephedrine 50

27  
28 <sup>2</sup> All times referred to herein are based on the full twenty-four hours of the day (i.e. a  
"twenty-four-hour" clock).

1 mg at or about 12:26, sodium bicarbonate 5 mEq (i.e. 84 mg.) at or about 12:27, and lidocaine  
2 100 mg at or about 12:28 in Patient #3's cardiac arrest flowsheet. In total, Respondent gave  
3 Patient #3 five doses of ephedrine during the procedure. It is unclear if the ephedrine was  
4 multiple doses noted by Respondent earlier in the procedure, or an additional dose not  
5 documented by Respondent in the anesthesia data record (ADR). Respondent was unable to  
6 resuscitate or care for Patient #3 and another anesthesiologist had to be called in to administer  
7 medications and resuscitate her. The procedure was aborted, and Patient #3 was taken to the  
8 Intensive Care Unit.

9 48. Respondent's ADR and notes for the beginning of the procedure on Patient #3 are  
10 somewhat legible and contain standard data and explanations. However, Respondent did not  
11 legibly fill out the ADR pertaining to the cardiac arrest, even retrospectively.

12 Patient #4

13 49. On or about October 3, 2019, Patient #4, a 64 year-old man with a history of  
14 paraplegia due to a gunshot wound and recurrent bed sores, was admitted for surgical cleaning of  
15 bed sores on his lower back and hip. Pre-operatively, Respondent performed a focused history  
16 and physical, additionally noting several other pertinent medical issues including anemia,  
17 hypertension, and anxiety and that his medications include the use of methadone. Respondent  
18 noted Patient #4's vital signs (BP 126/86) and labs, and a weight of 74.5 kg. Respondent  
19 assessed Patient #4 to be ASA status 4 and planned for general anesthesia. Patient #4 was placed  
20 on ASA-standard monitors. Towards the end of the procedure, Patient #4's oxygen saturation  
21 level decreased to 85%. Respondent then asked the surgical team to stop the procedure, and at  
22 some point noted a low blood pressure and asked for a pressure bag. A code blue was called by  
23 someone, but Respondent repeatedly called "we need help" without effectively communicating,  
24 and appeared overwhelmed. There is no record of a cardiac arrest "code blue" situation in the  
25 medical record for this procedure. Rather, it appears the code blue was called to obtain additional  
26 assistance for Respondent in the operating room. Further, while Respondent wrote Zofran and  
27 Pepcid on the ADR, she did not note the doses given either contemporaneously or retrospectively.

28 ///

1 Additionally, Respondent did not make any notes or document Patient #4's intraoperative  
2 desaturation and what interventions were done either contemporaneously or retrospectively.

3 Patient #5

4 50. On or about March 22, 2019, Patient #5, a 36 year-old woman, presented for  
5 scheduled repeat cesarean-section with bilateral tubal ligation (i.e. to get her fallopian tubes tied).  
6 Pre-operatively, Respondent performed a focused history and physical, additionally noting a  
7 history of gastroesophageal reflux and severe anxiety. Respondent noted Patient #5's vital signs  
8 and labs and that she was noted as not taking any home medications. Respondent assessed  
9 Patient #5 to be ASA status 2 and planned for spinal or general anesthesia. Anesthesia start time  
10 was documented as 8:25, with in room time at 8:40. Respondent started attempting a spinal  
11 around 8:45, and with the patient quite anxious, administered medication to calm her around 9:00.  
12 Respondent continued attempting to place a spinal until about 9:10, when another anesthesiologist  
13 arrived to help. After a few more minutes of failed attempts, at 9:15 the decision was made to  
14 proceed with general anesthesia. The obstetrician arrived at 9:25 to discuss general anesthesia  
15 with the patient as well. Respondent did not document the induction medications, though Patient  
16 #5 was successfully intubated. Anesthesia was maintained with several appropriate medications.  
17 Among those medications, Respondent listed a Pitocin drip, but did not record its administration.  
18 A few of the other medications Respondent noted are illegible.

19 Patient #6

20 51. On or about June 19, 2020, Patient #6, a 72-year-old female with a history of  
21 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart failure, and end-stage renal disease on  
22 dialysis thrice weekly, presented to the hospital for a vein graft placement in her left arm by a  
23 vascular surgeon. An electrocardiogram (ECG) obtained on or about three days prior showed  
24 atrial fibrillation with a heart rate of 80 beats per minute. Pre-operatively, Respondent performed  
25 a focused history and physical, including lab review, noting the patient's height, weight, and  
26 body-mass index as well as her glucose level and additional medical history including pleural  
27 effusion, sleep apnea, and reflux. Respondent assessed the patient to be ASA status 4. She  
28 recorded a plan for monitored anesthesia care. Monitors were placed and Respondent proceeded

1 with general anesthesia. Anesthesia was maintained throughout the procedure with various  
2 appropriate medications. However, while Respondent noted Zofran, Pepcid, and Toradol on the  
3 ADR, their administration is not documented. After the procedure, Patient #6 was taken to the  
4 recovery room awake with stable vital signs.

5 Patient #7

6 52. On or about June 18, 2020, Patient #7, an 8-year-old male, presented to the hospital  
7 after a dog bite injury to the lip and cheek with a plan for repair the following day with a plastic  
8 surgeon. Pre-operatively, Respondent performed a focused history and physical, assessed Patient  
9 #7 to be ASA status 2, and planned for general anesthesia. Patient #7's height was recorded as  
10 130 cm, weight as 36.5 kg, with a body mass index of 20. Anesthesia start time was noted as at  
11 or around 11:00 with in-room time at or around 11:20. Monitors were placed and Respondent  
12 proceeded with general anesthesia. Anesthesia was maintained throughout the procedure with  
13 various medications. However, during the procedure, Respondent administered Toradol 30 mg to  
14 Patient #7. After the procedure, Patient #7 was taken to the recovery room awake with stable  
15 vital signs.

16 Patient #8

17 53. On June 19, 2020, Patient #8, a 78-year-old man with a history of coronary artery  
18 disease with stents, heart failure, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and repair of  
19 swelling of the main blood vessel that leads away from the heart through his abdomen (abdominal  
20 aortic aneurysm), presented for removal of a tumor in his right upper arm and lymph node biopsy  
21 with possible skin grafting. Pre-operatively, Respondent performed a focused history and  
22 physical, and noted the patient's height, weight, and body mass index. There were no labs noted.  
23 Respondent assessed the patient to be ASA status 4 and planned for general anesthesia with  
24 endotracheal tube. Monitors were placed and Respondent proceeded with general anesthesia.  
25 Anesthesia was maintained throughout the procedure with various appropriate medications.  
26 However, Respondent gave Patient #8 two to three other medications for which her  
27 documentation is illegible, possibly including ephedrine or glycopyrrolate. After the procedure,  
28 Patient #8 was taken to the recovery room awake with stable vital signs.

1        Patient #9

2        54. On or about June 17, 2020, Patient #9, a 72-year-old male with a history of diabetes  
3 with resultant toe amputation, high blood pressure, heart failure, and end-stage renal disease on  
4 dialysis, presented to the hospital, having been sent there by his podiatrist. He was found to have  
5 severely low sodium and calcium levels and severely high blood sugar levels with concern for  
6 sepsis and wet gangrene, and was admitted by the hospital's on-staff physician. Additional  
7 medical history included peripheral vascular disease and hepatitis C. Patient #9 underwent urgent  
8 surgical debridement with open mid-foot amputation that day and tolerated that procedure well.

9        55. On or about June 19, 2020, a scan revealed that Patient #9 had severe enlargement of  
10 the left atrial and right-side chamber of his heart, globally decreased movement of his heart, that  
11 the amount of blood that his heart pumped each time it beats (ejection fraction) was only about  
12 36% (normal is 50% or higher), that the valves of both the right and left sides of his heart did not  
13 close completely, and that his aortic valve was severely narrowed. Patient #9 was taken to the  
14 operating room for heart surgery. Pre-operatively, Respondent performed a focused history and  
15 physical noting Patient #9 had a height of 68 inches, weighed 76 kg, and had a body mass index  
16 of 25. His vital signs were BP 112/49, heart rate 97, respirations 16, and oral temperature 36.6.  
17 She assessed the patient to be ASA status 4 and planned for general anesthesia, via an  
18 endotracheal tube with an arterial line (which is a tube inserted in an artery in the wrist, groin, or  
19 other location to measure blood pressure).

20        56. Anesthesia start time was documented as 15:15, with in-room time at 15:30.  
21 Monitors were placed and Respondent also placed an arterial line. Respondent administered  
22 Versed 2 mg, and induced anesthesia with propofol 200 mg, among other medications.  
23 Respondent successfully intubated the patient on the first attempt. Anesthesia was maintained  
24 with various medications. About two hours into the procedure, Patient #9's blood pressures were  
25 quickly decreasing and the patient had also become bradycardic. Respondent then turned off  
26 anesthetic gases and opened the IV fluids, then she administered epinephrine and atropine and  
27 called for help to start chest compressions. Another anesthesiologist arrived to assist. Patient  
28 #9's heart stopped beating entirely and CPR was started at or around 18:24. The surgeon placed a

1 line in Patient #9's left common femoral vein (a large vein where the left leg meets the hip/groin  
2 area) at or around 18:26. There were seven rounds of epinephrine given, spaced mostly five  
3 minutes apart, though two doses were given seven minutes after the previous dose, with the first  
4 dose at or around 18:28 and the last dose at or around 19:00. At or around 18:44, external pacing  
5 was attempted until around 18:47 and then turned back on at or around 18:54, with it documented  
6 that Patient #9's heart was not beating. Atropine 1 mg was given at or around 18:49 and at or  
7 around 18:58. Calcium chloride 1 g was given at or around 18:36. Dopamine 160 mcg was given  
8 at or around 19:04 and at or around 19:08, Patient #9's heart was noted as not beating. Lidocaine  
9 100 mg x 2 was given and sodium bicarbonate x 2 was given five minutes apart as directed by  
10 Respondent, though precise times either was administered were not noted. The other  
11 anesthesiologist pronounced Patient #9 dead at 19:09.

#### 12 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

##### 13 (Repeated Negligent Acts)

14 57. Respondent has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 74083  
15 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by subdivision (c), of the Code, in  
16 that she committed repeated acts of negligence in her care and treatment of Patients #1-9. The  
17 circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 44 through 56, which are incorporated here by reference  
18 as if fully set forth. Additional circumstances are as follows:

##### 19 Patient #1

20 58. The standard of care requires that all patients undergoing an anesthetic should have  
21 ASA-standard monitors, including blood pressure, heart rate, EKG, pulse oximetry, and CO2  
22 monitoring. The ASA standard also states that qualified anesthesia personnel should be present to  
23 monitor the patient and provide anesthesia care, except in limited circumstances. Patients  
24 undergoing surgery with neuromuscular blockade, especially in cases during which  
25 neuromonitoring is used, should have train-of-four monitoring.

26 59. Respondent appropriately placed Patient #1 on ASA-standard monitors. Given that  
27 neuromuscular blockade was used in the setting of neuromonitoring, train-of-four monitoring  
28 should have been used to assess the depth of the neuromuscular blockade. This may have

1 prevented or reduced the patient moving while the surgeon was operating. Though a patient  
2 moving during an operation can occur without any departure from the standard of care, not  
3 monitoring the patient's level of neuromuscular blockade can increase the likelihood of this  
4 occurring. Respondent's failure to perform neuromuscular blockade monitoring constitutes  
5 negligence.

6 Patient #2

7 60. The standard of care for duties for an on-call anesthesiologist may vary depending on  
8 the call description and the policy of the hospital or department or group. In this case, the on-call  
9 anesthesiologist includes a duty to answer calls from the hospital and be available to return to the  
10 hospital to anesthetize patients who may need urgent or emergent surgery. Respondent's failure  
11 to return phone calls and text messages when she was needed for Patient #2's urgent surgery  
12 constitutes negligence.

13 Patient #3

14 61. The standard of care requires that all patients undergoing an anesthetic should have  
15 ASA-standard monitors, including blood pressure, heart rate, EKG, pulse oximetry, and CO2  
16 monitoring. The ASA standard also states that qualified anesthesia personnel should be present to  
17 monitor the patient and provide anesthesia care, except in limited circumstances. Respondent  
18 placed Patient #3 on ASA-standard monitors and was present for the entirety of the documented  
19 time. There was no documented significant hypotension in the ADR at the beginning of the  
20 surgery. However, when Patient #3 became unstable, which was also noticed by the surgeon,  
21 Respondent either did not respond to the surgeon's questions or address Patient #3's  
22 hemodynamic instability. Respondent eventually stated "I need help," but failed to give clear  
23 direction or communicate to anyone else as to what was occurring or what help she needed, to the  
24 extent that another anesthesiologist was called who gave direction regarding resuscitation of the  
25 patient. Respondent's failure to monitor and communicate to the surgical team when Patient #3  
26 was unstable constitutes negligence.

27 ///

28 ///



1        62. The standard of care for intra-procedural medication management is to appropriately  
2 choose and dose medications based on the patient's condition and monitor the patient for changes  
3 that would require either intervention or adjustments in medication dosages. Starting around the  
4 time of Patient #3's hypotension, Respondent documented giving five (5) doses of ephedrine,  
5 although the documentation is not clear regarding the timing these doses were given.  
6 Nonetheless, repeated doses of ephedrine in a patient who is rapidly declining due to  
7 hemodynamic instability is not appropriate. Escalating medications to different vasopressors and  
8 interventions was required, especially since Patient #3 was not appropriately responding to the  
9 ephedrine. Respondent's failure to appropriately escalate medications given to Patient #3 when  
10 she was hemodynamically unstable constitutes negligence.

11        63. The standard of care for management of cardiac arrest is to follow the most recent  
12 appropriate ACLS algorithm. At the time of the incident with Patient #3, the most recent ACLS  
13 guidelines were from 2015. There are different algorithms to follow depending on the specific  
14 arrest situation. For asystole, this involves immediate chest compressions and giving epinephrine  
15 every 3-5 minutes while reassessing the patient and rhythm every 2 minutes. For non-shockable  
16 rhythms, epinephrine should be given as soon as feasible. The guidelines specifically mention  
17 that atropine and transcutaneous pacing have not been found to be beneficial during asystolic  
18 arrests. Patient #3 arrested at or around 12:25 with a rhythm of asystole, with chest compressions  
19 performed by the surgeon. Respondent administered epinephrine 1 mg at that time, and then  
20 atropine 1 mg at or around 12:27. Return of spontaneous circulation was noted at or around  
21 12:27, with a rhythm of sinus tachycardia. Respondent noted additional medications including  
22 ephedrine 50 mg at or around 12:26, sodium bicarbonate 5 mEq at or around 12:27, and lidocaine  
23 100 mg at or around 12:28 in the cardiac arrest flowsheet, though it is unclear if the ephedrine  
24 was the multiple doses noted earlier or an additional dose not documented in the ADR.  
25 Ephedrine is not indicated in cardiac arrest. Although routine use of bicarbonate is not  
26 recommended in the asystole algorithm, it is commonly given during in-hospital cardiac arrests  
27 and would have been reasonable to administer during this period. Lidocaine and atropine are not  
28 indicated for asystole, though they would be reasonable to administer in the setting of ventricular

1 tachycardia and bradycardia, respectively. However, neither of these rhythms was noted in the  
2 Code Blue flowsheet or ADR for Patient #3. Respondent's administering inappropriate  
3 medications during Patient #3's cardiopulmonary arrest constitutes negligence.

4 64. The standard of care requires timely, accurate, and legible medical records. The ASA  
5 has also released a statement on what items should be documented in the pre-anesthesia  
6 evaluation, during the anesthetic, and post-anesthesia assessment. The anesthesia data record and  
7 notes provided are somewhat legible and contain all standard data and explanations, at least for  
8 the beginning of the case. However, while it is common for some parts of an ADR to be difficult  
9 to read without guidance from the writer, it would be important to ensure that any significant  
10 events be discussed in further detail retrospectively. Furthermore, it appears that the ADR was not  
11 legibly filled out after the cardiac arrest. It is understandable that the record would not be able to  
12 be filled out in real time while the patient is unstable, a legible record of what happened during  
13 and after any significant events is required. Respondent's records on the procedures for Patient  
14 #3 lacked legibility and detailed description of significant intraoperative events which constitutes  
15 negligence.

16 Patient #4

17 65. The standard of care requires all patients undergoing an anesthetic to have ASA-  
18 standard monitors, including blood pressure, heart rate, EKG, pulse oximetry, and CO<sub>2</sub>  
19 monitoring. The ASA standard also states that qualified anesthesia personnel should be present to  
20 monitor the patient and provide anesthesia care, except in limited circumstances. Patient #4 was  
21 placed on ASA-standard monitors and the record reflects that Respondent was present for the  
22 entirety of the documented procedure time. However, towards the end of the procedure, Patient  
23 #4's oxygen saturation levels dropped (hypotension), and the procedure was abandoned.  
24 Respondent appropriately asked for Patient #4 to be turned supine to further assess the situation  
25 and then also at some point asked for a pressure bag to administer fluids for hypotension, but  
26 subsequently became overwhelmed and did not communicate with the rest of the intraoperative  
27 team. Respondent's failure to monitor and communicate with the rest of the intraoperative team  
28 when Patient #4 became unstable constitutes negligence.

1        66. Respondent's entries in the ADR and notes are mostly legible and contain standard  
2 data and explanations. Zofran and Pepcid were written on the ADR, but with no doses given.  
3 Typically, if a medication is written into the ADR, it suggests that it was given to the patient.  
4 However, given the amount of text and speed at which ADRs must be completed, there are often  
5 some parts that are not clearly legible. It would also be important to ensure that any significant  
6 events be documented in further detail retrospectively. There does not appear to be any  
7 documentation from Respondent regarding the intraoperative desaturation and what interventions  
8 were done, either contemporaneously or retrospectively, during the care and treatment of Patient  
9 #4. Respondent's administration of Zofran and Pepcid without documenting the doses given  
10 constitutes negligence. Respondent's failure to document the intraoperative desaturation event,  
11 including what interventions were taken also constitutes negligence.

12        Patient #5

13        67. The standard of care requires timely, accurate, and legible medical records. The ASA  
14 has also released a statement on what items should be documented in the pre-anesthesia  
15 evaluation, during the anesthetic, and post-anesthesia assessment. The ADR and Respondent's  
16 notes are mostly legible. However, there is inadequate documentation of the spinal attempts and  
17 the general anesthetic. Respondent failed to document any of the induction medications and  
18 multiple of the medications noted are illegible. Given the situation, Patient #5 should have  
19 received a rapid sequence intubation, but there is no documentation that this was done.  
20 Respondent's failure to document induction medications for general anesthesia, with a rapid  
21 sequence intubation, as well as the failure to document the administration of Pitocin constitutes  
22 negligence.

23        Patient #6

24        68. Respondent's ADR entries and notes for Patient #6 are mostly legible and for the  
25 most part contain standard data and explanations. However, Respondent wrote Zofran, Pepcid,  
26 and Toradol on the ADR, but with no doses given, which would be an unusual practice. Writing  
27 a medication in the ADR suggests that it was given. However, given the amount of text and  
28 speed at which ADRs must be completed, there may be some parts that are not clearly legible.

1 Respondent's administration of Zofran, Pepcid, and Toradol to Patient #6 without documenting  
2 the doses given constitutes negligence.

3 Patient #7

4 69. The standard of care for intra-procedural medication management is to appropriately  
5 choose and dose medications based on the patient's condition and monitor the patient for changes  
6 that would require either intervention or adjustments in medication dosages. The dose of Toradol  
7 (ketorolac) in a pediatric patient is 0.5 mg/kg. Thus, for a patient of 36 kg, the closest dose  
8 should be 15-20 mg. The dose of Toradol Respondent gave to Patient #7 constitutes negligence.

9 Patient #8

10 70. Respondent's ADR entries and notes for Patient #8 are mostly legible and for the  
11 most part contain standard data and explanations. However, there are two to three medications  
12 which Respondent gave Patient #8, possibly including ephedrine or glycopyrrolate, which are  
13 illegible. Respondent's illegible medication documentation constitutes negligence.

14 Patient #9

15 71. The standard of care for intra-procedural medication management is to appropriately  
16 choose and dose medications based on the patient's condition and monitor the patient for changes  
17 that would require either intervention or adjustments in medication dosages. The induction dose  
18 of propofol of 200 mg for this patient was too high. The induction dose of propofol for a normal  
19 patient is 2-3 mg/kg, and with a weight of 76 kg, the dose given was over 2 mg/kg. This dose  
20 should be reduced significantly in patients with co-morbidities such as severe aortic stenosis and  
21 reduced ejection fraction who would be at a much higher risk of decompensation from a  
22 medication that has vasodilatory and cardio-depressive effects. An alternative induction agent  
23 could also have been appropriate. Respondent's failure to give Patient #9 an appropriate dose of  
24 propofol constitutes negligence.

25 72. The standard of care for management of symptomatic bradycardia with a pulse is to  
26 follow the most recent appropriate ACLS algorithm. At the time of the incident, the most recent  
27 ACLS guidelines were from 2015. In those guidelines, the "bradycardia with a pulse" algorithm  
28 was reaffirmed from the 2010 guidelines, and states that a patient with symptomatic bradycardia

1 should receive atropine 0.5 mg, which can be repeated every 3-5 minutes to a maximum dose of 3  
2 mg. Subsequent treatment is to consider starting dopamine, epinephrine, or transcutaneous  
3 pacing. If a patient's condition changes, then the appropriate algorithm for the patient's condition  
4 should be followed.

5 73. Bradycardia was noted in several records such as the operative note and the  
6 Cardiopulmonary Arrest Record, which Respondent admitted occurred. However, Respondent  
7 failed to document it either in the ADR or in her notes. Respondent first attempted to treat  
8 hypotension with phenylephrine and other vasopressors, such as ephedrine. Although  
9 phenylephrine should be used with great caution if already concerned about bradycardia, it is  
10 unclear when Patient #9 started to become bradycardic. When Patient #9 continued to  
11 deteriorate, Respondent "immediately" started to give epinephrine and atropine, which would be  
12 a reasonable action if the patient was hypotensive and bradycardic. However, the recorded doses  
13 of atropine 1 mg x 2 occurred during the cardiopulmonary arrest and Respondent documented  
14 even more doses (possibly 8 doses of 1 mg) on the ADR. Giving atropine during the arrest was  
15 inappropriate timing, and giving 8 mg of it was inappropriate dosing. While there are also  
16 recorded doses of dopamine 160 mcg x 2 and transcutaneous pacing attempted, it was attempted  
17 when Patient #9 was in asystole, not when Patient #9 was bradycardic. The treatments for  
18 symptomatic bradycardia should occur when the patient is bradycardic, and should the patient  
19 progress to a different rhythm, such as asystole, that algorithm should be followed. Respondent's  
20 timing and dosages of bradycardia interventions given to Patient #9 constitutes negligence.

21 74. The standard of care for management of cardiac arrest is to follow the most recent  
22 appropriate ACLS algorithm. At the time of the incident, the most recent ACLS guidelines were  
23 from 2015. There are different algorithms to follow depending on the specific arrest situation.  
24 For asystole, this involves immediate chest compressions and giving epinephrine every three to  
25 five minutes while reassessing the patient and rhythm every two minutes. For non-shockable  
26 rhythms, epinephrine should be given as soon as feasible. The guidelines specifically mention  
27 that atropine and transcutaneous pacing have not been found to be beneficial during asystolic  
28 arrests.

1        75. Patient #9 was noted to become asystolic at 18:24, and CPR (likely chest  
2 compressions) was started. A total of seven rounds of epinephrine (18:28, 18:35, 18:42, 18:46,  
3 18:50, 18:55, and 19:00) were given, along with atropine 1 mg (18:49, 18:58), calcium chloride 1  
4 g (18:36), lidocaine 100 mg (x 2, no times noted), and sodium bicarbonate (x 2, every 5 minutes,  
5 no times given). For the treatment of asystole, the doses of epinephrine given here are  
6 appropriate, and the timing is as close to the algorithm as can reasonably be expected in such  
7 circumstances. However, lidocaine (a treatment for ventricular arrhythmias), atropine (a  
8 treatment in the bradycardia algorithm), and dopamine (a treatment in the bradycardia algorithm)  
9 are not indicated for asystole. Although routine use of calcium and bicarbonate are not  
10 recommended in the asystole algorithm, they are commonly given during in-hospital cardiac  
11 arrests and would have been reasonable to administer during this period. Transcutaneous pacing  
12 was attempted from 18:44 to 18:47, and then resumed at 18:54. While the records note consistent  
13 asystole, there is a notation of "HR 124" at 18:44, which if it means a heart rate of 124 was  
14 detected, would be inconsistent with the note of consistent of asystole. Transcutaneous pacing  
15 has not been found to be useful for asystole. Respondent's administering ineffective medications  
16 during the cardiopulmonary arrest constitutes negligence.

17        76. While most of the ADR is legible, and the illegible parts are not significant enough to  
18 be a departure from the standard of care, the lack of appropriate documentation of the  
19 hemodynamic instability and subsequent cardiac arrest and attempts at resuscitation are. It is  
20 understandable that during such an acute event, there would be no time to document. However,  
21 the anesthesiologist would be expected to document as best as possible the events that occurred  
22 within a reasonable time thereafter. The ADR would not be expected to have enough space to  
23 describe the events, so an additional note would be expected. Respondent's short post-anesthesia  
24 note is incomplete in describing the events and medications given to Patient #9. Additionally,  
25 Respondent did not describe the bradycardia episode in the medical record. Respondent's  
26 documentation in Patient #9's ADR should also have a reasonably accurate description of the  
27 medications given, but it has drastically different doses of atropine compared to the  
28 Cardiopulmonary Arrest Record, and no record of bicarbonate or lidocaine. While some leeway

1 in accuracy given the acuity of the situation is reasonable, there should at least be some  
2 description in the narrative description if not in the ADR itself. Respondent's failure to provide  
3 appropriate descriptions of intraoperative events and the lack of her documentation of  
4 medications administered constitutes negligence.

5 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

6 **(Inadequate and Inaccurate Recordkeeping)**

7 77. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number  
8 A 74083 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2266 in that  
9 she failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in her care and treatment of Patient  
10 #3, Patient #4, Patient #5, Patient #6, Patient #8, and Patient #9. The circumstances are set forth  
11 in paragraphs 47 through 76, above, which are incorporated here by reference as if fully set forth.

12 **PRAYER**

13 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,  
14 and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

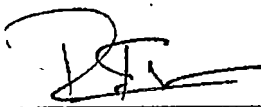
15 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 74083,  
16 issued to Genara Turallo Dela Roca, M.D.;

17 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Genara Turallo Dela Roca, M.D.'s  
18 authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

19 3. Ordering Genara Turallo Dela Roca, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the  
20 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation  
21 monitoring; and

22 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

23  
24 DATED: AUG 14 2023

25   
26 REJI VARGHESE  
27 Executive Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
Complainant

28 FR2023302571/95517753.docx