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

Case No.: 800-2020-069636

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:

Howard Bradley Salvay, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34434

Respondent.

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary 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 November 27, 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED: October 31, 2024.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Richard E. Thorp, Chair

Panel B

1	ROB BONTA		
2	Attorney General of California GREG W. CHAMBERS		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 237509 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000		
4	San Francisco, CA 94102-7004 Telephone: (415) 510-3382		
5	Facsimile: (415) 703-5480 E-mail: Greg.Chambers@doj.ca.gov		
6	Attorneys for Complainant		
7	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
8	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
9	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10		1 9 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	
11	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2020-069636	
12	HOWARD BRADLEY SALVAY, M.D.	OAH No. 2024020193	
13	3600 CHARDONNAY RD SOQUEL, CA 95073-9743	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34434		
15	Respondent.		
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18	In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with the public		
19	interest and the responsibility of the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer		
20	Affairs, the parties hereby agree to the following Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order		
21	which will be submitted to the Board for approval and adoption as the final disposition of the		
22	Accusation.		
23	PARTIES		
24	1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of		
25	California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this		
26	matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Greg W. Chambers,		
27	Supervising Deputy Attorney General.		
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- 2. Respondent Howard Bradley Salvay, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq., whose address is: 5440 Trabuco Road Irvine, CA 92620.
- 3. On or about June 25, 1977, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34434 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-069636, and will expire on May 31, 2025, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 4. First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-069636 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 6, 2023. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the First Amended Accusation.
- 5. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-069636 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-069636. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with his counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his 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.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent admits the truth of paragraph 9 in the First Amended Accusation 800-2020-069636. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and remaining allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-069636, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 10. Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie case or factual basis for the charges in the First Amended Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.
- 11. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-069636, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate, No. G 34434 to disciplinary action.
- 12. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

- 14. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreement of the parties in this above-entitled matter.
- 15. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-069636 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.
- 16. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 17. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by the Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34434 issued to Respondent HOWARD BRADLEY SALVAY, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions:

1. <u>EDUCATION COURSE</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65

hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

2. <u>MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The medical record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

3. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1.

Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

4. <u>NOTIFICATION</u>. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and First Amended Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- 5. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u>. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.
- 6. <u>INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY</u>. Respondent is hereby ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement, including, but not limited to, expert review, amended accusations, legal reviews, investigation(s), and subpoena enforcement, as applicable, in the amount of \$15,286.60 (Fifteen thousand two hundred eighty-six dollars and 60 cents). Costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

Payment must be made in full within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or by a payment plan approved by the Medical Board of California. Any and all

Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return.

- 9. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u>. Respondent shall be available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 10. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice.

In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Boards's Special Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine. Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years. Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the

exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

- 11. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>. Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. This term does not include cost recovery, which is due within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or by a payment plan approved by the Medical Board and timely satisfied. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 12. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.
- 14. <u>PROBATION MONITORING COSTS</u>. Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which

ENDORSEMENT The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California. DATED: 10/3/2024 Respectfully submitted, ROB BONTA Attorney General of California GREG W. Chambers GREG W. CHAMBERS Supervising Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-069636

1	ROB BONTA		
2	Attorney General of California GREG W. CHAMBERS Supervising Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 237509 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004		
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5	Telephone: (415) 510-3495 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480		
6	Attorneys for Complainant	,	
7	BEFOR	E THE	
8	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
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11	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation	Case No. 800-2020-069636	
12	Against:	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION	
13	HOWARD BRADLEY SALVAY, M.D. 3600 CHARDONNAY RD. SOQUEL, CA 95073-9743		
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate		
15	No. G 34434,		
16	Respondent.	,	
17		•	
18	<u>PARTIES</u>		
19		this First Amended Accusation solely in his	
20	official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of		
21	Consumer Affairs (Board).		
22	2. On or about June 25, 1977, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's		
23	Certificate Number G 34434 to Howard Bradley Salvay, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's		
24	and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought		
25	herein and will expire on May 31, 2025, unless renewed.		
26	///		
27	<i>III</i>		
28	///		
	1		

(HOWARD BRADLEY SALVAY, M.D.) FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION NO. 800-2020-069636

3. This First Amended 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.

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 provides that 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.
 - 7. All the events alleged in this First Amended Accusation took place in California.

COST RECOVERY

8. 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.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9. On June 30, 2020, Respondent saw Patient 1 in an office setting for a sonohysterogram in light of infertility concerns. Patient 1 was in stirrups and naked from the waist down, with a drape, in preparation for the procedure. Respondent did not put on gloves

¹ "Patient 1" and "Patient 2" are used to protect privacy. A sonohysterogram (or saline infusion sonogram) is a procedure to look at the inside of the uterus and at the functioning of the fallopian tubes. Sound waves are used to create images of the uterus. For the procedure, a speculum is placed in the vagina and a small catheter is placed through the cervix into the lower uterine segment.

(HOWARD BRADLEY SALVAY, M.D.) FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION NO. 800-2020-069636