

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Reno K. Ahuja, M.D.

**Physician's & Surgeon's
Certificate No. C 141861**

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2021-081475

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 March 3, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED: January 31, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Michelle A. Bholat, MD

**Michelle Anne Bholat, M.D., Chair
Panel A**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 MACHAELA M. MINGARDI
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 C. HAY-MIE CHO
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 282259
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
5 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004
Telephone: (415) 510-4433
6 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480
E-mail: Haymie.Cho@doj.ca.gov
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2021-081475

12 **RENO K. AHUJA, M.D.**
13 **1435 Bradford Lane**
Carbondale, IL 62902-6237

OAH No. 2024100283

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
15 **No. C 141861,**

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER

16 Respondent.

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

19 **PARTIES**

20 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
21 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
22 matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by C. Hay-Mie Cho, Deputy
23 Attorney General.

24 2. Respondent Reno K. Ahuja, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by
25 attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq., 5440 Trabuco Road, Irvine, CA 92620.

26 ///

27 ///

3. On April 12, 2016, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 141861 to Reno K. Ahuja, M.D. (Respondent). That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2021-081475, and will expire on June 30, 2025, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2021-081475 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 April 18, 2024. Respondent timely filed a Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2021-081475 is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2021-081475. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with her counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

7. 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.

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

CULPABILITY

9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2021-081475, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

10. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2021-081475, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and that she has thereby subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 141861 to disciplinary action.

11. Respondent agrees that her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline, and she agrees to be bound by the Board's terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

12. 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 her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her 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.

13. 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.

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

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

A: PUBLIC REPRIMAND

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 141861,
issued to Respondent shall be and is hereby publicly reprimanded pursuant to California Business

1 and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a)(4). This public reprimand is issued because
2 Respondent was disciplined by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
3 for prescribing while maintaining her DEA license but failing to review her Illinois Controlled
4 Substance License and for her failure to meet the standard of care in her treatment of a psychiatric
5 patient, as set forth in Accusation No. 800-2021-081475.

6 **B: REMEDIAL EDUCATION**

7 1. **PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE)**. Respondent is ordered to
8 complete a Professionalism Program (Ethics Course) within one year of the effective date of this
9 Decision. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll
10 in a professionalism program, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of
11 Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete
12 that program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may
13 deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program
14 not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal
15 component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one
16 (1) year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at
17 Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME)
18 requirements for renewal of licensure.

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

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

27 Failure to timely complete the Professionalism Program shall constitute unprofessional
28 conduct in violation of Business and Professions Code section 2234 and may subject Respondent

1 to further disciplinary action.

2 **C: COST RECOVERY**

3 Respondent is hereby ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and
4 enforcement in the amount of \$10,636.31.¹ Costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of
5 California. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered unprofessional conduct in violation of
6 Business and Professions Code section 2234 and may subject Respondent to further disciplinary
7 action.

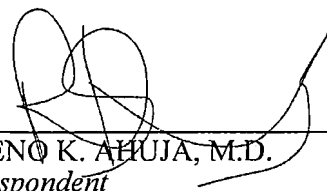
8 **D: FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE**

9 If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for
10 reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing action agency in the State of
11 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2021-081475 shall
12 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of
13 Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict license.

14 **ACCEPTANCE**

15 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
16 discussed it with my attorney, Raymond J. McMahon, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the
17 effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated
18 Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be
19 bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

20
21 DATED: 12/20/24



RENO K. AHUJA, M.D.
Respondent

23 //

24 //

25 //

26

27

28 ¹ This amount represents a 25% reduction and is subject to change, due to the pending nature of this matter.

1 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Reno K. Ahuja, M.D. the terms and
2 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
3 I approve its form and content.

4 DATED: 12/20/2024


RAYMOND J. MCMAHON, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

DATED: December 20, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
MACHAELA M. MINGARDI
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

C. Hay-Mie Cho

C. HAY-MIE CHO
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

SF2024400807
44447184.docx

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2021-081475

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 GREG W. CHAMBERS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 State Bar No. 237509
4 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
San Francisco, CA 94102-7004
Telephone: (415) 510-3382
5 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480
Attorneys for Complainant
6

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

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2021-081475

12 **Reno K. Ahuja, M.D.**
13 **1435 Bradford Ln.**
Carbondale, IL 62902-6237

A C C U S A T I O N

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
15 **No. C 141861,**

Respondent.

16
17
18 **PARTIES**

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

22 2. On or about April 12, 2016, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
23 Certificate Number C 141861 to Reno K. Ahuja, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
24 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
25 herein and will expire on June 30, 2025, unless renewed.

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

2
3
4

5

6
7
8
9
10
11
12

13
14
15
16

17
18
19
20

21

22
23
24
25
26
27

1 **COST RECOVERY**

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

8 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

9 8. On or about August 23, 2021, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional
10 Regulation (IDFPR) issued a Consent Order in Case No. 2017-02069, subsequent to allegations
11 Respondent prescribed controlled substances without renewing her Illinois Controlled Substance
12 License; and failed to appropriately evaluate and treat a patient of her practice while the patient
13 was experiencing an acute psychiatric episode. Under the terms of the Consent Order,
14 Respondent was placed on indefinite probation for a minimum of one (1) year; required to have a
15 practice monitor; and pay a fine, among other terms and conditions. A copy of the Consent Order
16 is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

17 **CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 **(Discipline, Restriction, or Limitation Imposed by Another State)**

19 9. Paragraph 8 is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.

20 10. Respondent Reno K. Ahuja, M.D., is subject to disciplinary action under sections 141
21 and 2305 of the Code in that the action taken by IDFPR, by and through its Consent Order,
22 regarding Respondent's Illinois license to practice medicine, as set forth above, constitutes cause
23 for disciplinary action and/or unprofessional conduct within the meaning of sections 141 and
24 2305 of the Code. Therefore, cause for discipline exists.

25 **PRAYER**

26 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
27 and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:
28

1 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number C 141861,
2 issued to Respondent Reno K. Ahuja, M.D.;

3 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Reno K. Ahuja, M.D.'s
4 authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

5 3. Ordering Respondent Reno K. Ahuja, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the
6 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation
7 monitoring; and

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

9
10 DATED: APR 18 2024

JENNA JONES for
REJI VARGHESE
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

EXHIBIT 1

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND	)	
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION	)	
of the State of Illinois,	)	Complainant,
v.	)	No. 2017-02069
Reno Ahuja, M.D.,	)	
License No. 036-128348,	)	Respondent.

CONSENT ORDER

The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation, of the State of Illinois, by Vladimir Lozovski, one of its attorneys, (hereinafter the "Department") and Reno Ahuja, M.D. (hereinafter the "Respondent"), through Scott D. Hammer, her attorney, hereby agree to the following:

STIPULATIONS

Reno Ahuja, M.D. is licensed as a Physician and Surgeon in the State of Illinois, holding Illinois Physician and Surgeon License No. 036-128348. Said license is in Active status. At all times material to the matter(s) set forth in this Consent Order, the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation, of the State of Illinois had jurisdiction over the subject matter and parties herein.

Information has come to the attention of the Department that alleges that Respondent prescribed Controlled Substances without renewing her Illinois Controlled Substance License. While this matter was pending, the Department also received information that Respondent failed to appropriately evaluate and treat a patient of her practice while the patient was experiencing acute psychiatric episode. The allegation(s) as set forth herein, if proven to be true, would constitute grounds for suspending, revoking or other discipline of Respondent's license as a

Physician and Surgeon, on the authority 225 Illinois Compiled Statutes, Paragraph 60/22(A)(5) and (33).

Subsequently, the Department held an informal conference in this matter on November 6, 2019. Karen O'Mara, D.O. and Shami Goyal, M.D. were present on behalf of the Medical Disciplinary Board and Vladimir Lozovski, regular staff attorney, appeared on behalf of the Department. Respondent appeared along with her attorney Scott D. Hammer. During informal conference, Respondent provided information regarding her educational background and experience and explained the issues that led to her failure to renew Illinois Controlled Substance License. In addition, Respondent described her care, treatment and evaluation of the patient-in-question.

For purposes of this Consent Order, Respondent neither admits nor denies the allegations, but she acknowledges that should this matter proceed to a contested hearing, the Illinois Medical Disciplinary Board (the "Board") could find a violation of the Medical Practice Act. Respondent has been advised of the right to a hearing, the right to contest any charges brought, and the right to administrative review of this Consent Order. Respondent knowingly waives each of these rights. Such waiver ceases if this Consent Order is rejected by either the Medical Disciplinary Board or the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Respondent and the Department have agreed, in order to resolve this matter, that Respondent, Reno Ahuja, M.D., be permitted to enter into a Consent Order with the Department, providing for the imposition of disciplinary measures which are fair and equitable under the circumstances and which are consistent with the best interests of the people of the State of Illinois.

CONDITIONS

WHEREFORE, the Department, through Vladimir Lozovski, its regular staff attorney, and Reno Ahuja, M.D., Respondent, through Scott D. Hammer, her attorney, agree:

- A. Illinois Physician and Surgeon License of Reno Ahuja, M.D., License No. 036-128348, is hereby placed on indefinite probation for minimum of one (1) year;
- B. During a period of Probation, Respondent shall provide the Department with quarterly reports which include: (i) current residential address and contact telephone number as well as current practice location address and contact telephone number; (ii) address and contact information for each healthcare entity where Respondent has admitting privileges and/or employed; (iii) names of all the subordinates that are employed and/or supervised by Respondent during the reporting quarter; (iv) description of job duties, responsibilities and name of immediate supervisor and/or Department's Chairperson; (v) copy of any and all incident reports within the prior quarter filed against Respondent; and (vi) information, regarding any arrests, criminal, or civil actions filed, including DUI and/or other similar offenses against the Respondent; (vii) Respondent shall notify the Department of any adverse action taken against her related to the practice of medicine by another entity including but not limited to licensing authorities, insurance companies, and state and federal agencies, within ten (10) days of said adverse action; and (viii) Respondent shall notify the Department when she is the subject of any investigation initiated by another entity, including but not limited to licensing authorities, insurance companies, and state and federal agencies, within ten (10) days of said investigation;
- C. During a period of Probation, Respondent shall notify the Department's Chief of

Probation Investigations in writing of any change in employment and/or home address and/or telephone number within ten (10) days;

D. During a period of Probation, Respondent shall request the designated person from every healthcare entity, where she is practicing medicine/utilizing her Physician and Surgeon License, to submit quarterly reports to the Department regarding any issues arising out of her employment and practice of medicine;

E. Within 60 days of the final approval of this Consent Order, Respondent shall obtain a practice monitor, who is a licensed Physician and Surgeon in the State of Illinois. Said practice monitor cannot be affiliated with Respondent's practice. Said practice monitor shall have an unrestricted Illinois Physician and Surgeon License that has never been disciplined by any state and/or federal agencies. The practice monitor shall be hired at the expense of Respondent and shall be pre-approved by the Chief Medical Coordinator of the Department. Respondent shall request that her practice monitor submit quarterly reports about scope and performance appraisals. On a quarterly basis the practice monitor shall meet with Respondent and randomly select and review ten (10) charts of patients who have been seen by Respondent during the quarter. The practice monitor shall review the charts of those patients and submit independent quarterly reports to the Department evaluating the scope, appropriateness, and quality of medical care rendered by Respondent;

F. During a period of Probation, the practice monitor shall agree to inform the Department immediately if there is evidence of inappropriate behavior, professional misconduct, a violation of Respondent's probation or any violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of medicine;

G. During a period of Probation, Respondent shall notify the Department's Probation Unit within 10 (ten) days should her relationship with any practice monitor cease. Respondent

shall submit to the Department's Chief Medical Coordinator a name of a new practice monitor within 30 days from the date of the initial Notice:

H. Respondent is required to submit a proof of completion of ten (10) Category I CMEs in the area of psychiatric emergencies and ten (10) Category I CMEs in the area of professional responsibility. Said CME credits are not allowed to be counted towards regularly required CME credits pursuant to the Illinois Medical Practice Act;

I. Respondent shall pay a Fine in the amount of \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars) being due within twelve (12) months of the effective date of this Consent Order.

Respondent shall submit a check payable to: the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Said fine shall be mailed to Illinois Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation, Attention: CMU/Accounts Receivable - Fine Payments, 320 W. Washington St., 3rd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62786;

J. Respondent shall ensure that all the reports required to be submitted under the terms of this Probation shall be filed with the Department no later than 1/10, 4/10, 7/10 and 10/10 of each year during the full term of the Probation:

K. Respondent agrees that a violation of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order or a violation of the terms of probation is a violation of 225 ILCS 60/22(A)(15);

L. Respondent shall not violate the Illinois Medical Practice Act of 1987, any other federal and state laws related to the practice of medicine as well as any other federal and state laws;

M. If Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of this Order, the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation may issue an Order forthwith mandating the automatic, immediate, indefinite suspension of Respondent's Illinois Physician License for a minimum of twelve (12) months. This indefinite suspension shall not

preclude the Department from taking any other disciplinary or other actions it deems appropriate. In the event Respondent contests in writing (by the filing of an appropriate petition with the Department) the factual basis underlying said indefinite suspension within thirty (30) days of the imposition thereof, then Respondent shall be afforded a hearing on the merits within thirty (30) days from filing of said petition;

N. This Consent Order shall become effective immediately after it is approved by the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

7/13/2021
DATE

Vladimir Lozovskiy
Vladimir Lozovskiy, Attorney for the Department

7/8/2021
DATE

Reno Ahuja
Reno Ahuja, M.D., Respondent

7/8/21
DATE

Scott D. Hammer
Scott D. Hammer, Attorney for Respondent

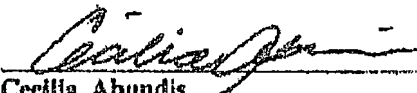
7/21/2021
DATE

Member
Member, Medical Disciplinary Board

The foregoing Consent Order is approved in full.

DATED THIS 23rd day of August, 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION of
the State of Illinois, Mario Treto, Jr., Acting Secretary,
Division of Professional Regulations


Cecilia Abundis
Acting Director

REF: Case No. 2017-02069/ License No. 036-128348