

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

In the Matter of the First Amended
Accusation Against:

Chirag Maheshbhai Pandya, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 99084

Case No.: 800-2021-079996

Respondent.

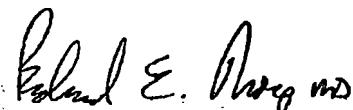
DECISION

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 April 21, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED: March 21, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



Richard E. Thorp, M.D., Chair
Panel B

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
3 GREG W. CHAMBERS
4 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
5 State Bar No. 237509
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BEFORE THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

10

11 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
12 Against:

Case No. 800-2021-079996

12

13 CHIRAG MAHESHBHAI PANDYA, M.D.
87 Fenton St., Suite 210
Livermore, CA 94550-4100

QAH No. 2024090360

14

15 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A
99084

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER

16

Respondent.

17

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 First Amended Accusation.

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.

2. Respondent Chirag Maheshbhai Pandya, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Matthew A. Brinegar, Esq., whose address is: 2000 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 512, San Francisco, CA 94109

3. On or about February 28, 2007, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 99084 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. 800-2021-079996, and will expire on January 31, 2027, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079996 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 May 2, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. The First Amended Accusation was filed on January 6, 2025.

5. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079996 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. 800-2021-079996. 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.

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

CULPABILITY

4 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in First Amended
5 Accusation No. 800-2021-079996, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline
6 upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

7 10. Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima facie* case
8 or factual basis for the charges in the First Amended Accusation, and that Respondent hereby
9 gives up his right to contest those charges.

10 11. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could
11 establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations in First Amended
12 Accusation No. 800-2021-079996, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit
13 A, and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate, No. A 99084 to
14 disciplinary action.

15 12. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to
16 discipline and agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the
17 Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

19 13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California.
20 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical
21 Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and
22 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the
23 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek
24 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails
25 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
26 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal
27 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having
28 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. 800-2021-079996 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. A 99084 issued to Respondent Chirag Maheshbhai Pandya, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years upon the following terms and conditions:

1. ACTUAL SUSPENSION. As part of probation, Respondent is suspended from the practice of medicine for forty-five (45) days beginning the sixteenth (16th) day after the effective date of this decision.

2: EDUCATION COURSE. 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

1 completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test
2 Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65
3 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

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

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

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

22 4. CLINICAL COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM. Within 60 calendar days
23 of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a clinical competence assessment
24 program approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall successfully
25 complete the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment unless
26 the Board or its designee agrees in writing to an extension of that time.

27 The program shall consist of a comprehensive assessment of Respondent's physical and
28 mental health and the six general domains of clinical competence as defined by the Accreditation

1 Council on Graduate Medical Education and American Board of Medical Specialties pertaining to
2 Respondent's current or intended area of practice. The program shall take into account data
3 obtained from the pre-assessment, self-report forms and interview, and the Decision(s), First
4 Amended Accusation(s), and any other information that the Board or its designee deems relevant.
5 The program shall require Respondent's on-site participation as determined by the program for
6 the assessment and clinical education and evaluation. Respondent shall pay all expenses
7 associated with the clinical competence assessment program.

8 At the end of the evaluation, the program will submit a report to the Board or its designee
9 which unequivocally states whether the Respondent has demonstrated the ability to practice
10 safely and independently. Based on Respondent's performance on the clinical competence
11 assessment, the program will advise the Board or its designee of its recommendation(s) for the
12 scope and length of any additional educational or clinical training, evaluation or treatment for any
13 medical condition or psychological condition, or anything else affecting Respondent's practice of
14 medicine. Respondent shall comply with the program's recommendations.

15 Determination as to whether Respondent successfully completed the clinical competence
16 assessment program is solely within the program's jurisdiction.

17 If Respondent fails to enroll, participate in, or successfully complete the clinical
18 competence assessment program within the designated time period, Respondent shall receive a
19 notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3)
20 calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine
21 until enrollment or participation in the outstanding portions of the clinical competence assessment
22 program have been completed. If the Respondent did not successfully complete the clinical
23 competence assessment program, the Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until a
24 final decision has been rendered on the accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation. The
25 cessation of practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary time period.

26 5. **PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION.** Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of
27 this Decision, and on whatever periodic basis thereafter may be required by the Board or its
28 designee, Respondent shall undergo and complete a psychiatric evaluation (and psychological

1 testing, if deemed necessary) by a Board-appointed board certified psychiatrist, who shall
2 consider any information provided by the Board or designee and any other information the
3 psychiatrist deems relevant, and shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its
4 designee. Psychiatric evaluations conducted prior to the effective date of the Decision shall not
5 be accepted towards the fulfillment of this requirement. Respondent shall pay the cost of all
6 psychiatric evaluations and psychological testing.

7 Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the evaluating
8 psychiatrist within 15 calendar days after being notified by the Board or its designee.

9 6. **MEDICAL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT.** Within 30 calendar days of the
10 effective date of this Decision, and on a periodic basis thereafter as may be required by the Board
11 or its designee, Respondent shall undergo a medical evaluation by a Board-appointed physician
12 who shall consider any information provided by the Board or designee and any other information
13 the evaluating physician deems relevant and shall furnish a medical report to the Board or its
14 designee. Respondent shall provide the evaluating physician with any information and
15 documentation that the evaluating physician may deem pertinent.

16 Following the evaluation, Respondent shall comply with all restrictions or conditions
17 recommended by the evaluating physician within 15 calendar days after being notified by the
18 Board or its designee. If Respondent is required by the Board or its designee to undergo medical
19 treatment, Respondent shall within 30 calendar days of the requirement notice, submit to the
20 Board or its designee for prior approval the name and qualifications of a California licensed
21 treating physician of Respondent's choice. Upon approval of the treating physician, Respondent
22 shall within 15 calendar days undertake medical treatment and shall continue such treatment until
23 further notice from the Board or its designee.

24 The treating physician shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee
25 or any other information the treating physician may deem pertinent prior to commencement of
26 treatment. Respondent shall have the treating physician submit quarterly reports to the Board or
27 its designee indicating whether or not the Respondent is capable of practicing medicine safely.
28 Respondent shall provide the Board or its designee with any and all medical records pertaining to

1 treatment that the Board or its designee deems necessary.

2 If, prior to the completion of probation, Respondent is found to be physically incapable of
3 resuming the practice of medicine without restrictions, the Board shall retain continuing
4 jurisdiction over Respondent's license and the period of probation shall be extended until the
5 Board determines that Respondent is physically capable of resuming the practice of medicine
6 without restrictions. Respondent shall pay the cost of the medical evaluation(s) and treatment.

7 7. SOLO PRACTICE PROHIBITION. Respondent is prohibited from engaging in the
8 solo practice of medicine during probation, unless Respondent is participating in a professional
9 enhancement program approved in advance by the Board or its designee, which shall include
10 quarterly chart review, semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional
11 growth and education at Respondent's expense during the term of probation. Prohibited solo
12 practice includes, but is not limited to, a practice where: 1) Respondent merely shares office space
13 with another physician but is not affiliated for purposes of providing patient care, or 2)
14 Respondent is the sole physician practitioner at that location.

15 If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in
16 an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision,
17 Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of
18 medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume
19 practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

20 If, during the course of the probation, the Respondent's practice setting changes and the
21 Respondent is no longer practicing in a setting in compliance with this Decision, the Respondent
22 shall notify the Board or its designee within five (5) calendar days of the practice setting change.
23 If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an
24 appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the practice setting change, Respondent
25 shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within
26 three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume practice until an
27 appropriate practice setting is established.

28 8. NOTIFICATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the

1 Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and First Amended Accusation to the Chief
2 of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are
3 extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of
4 medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the
5 Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage
6 to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within
7 15 calendar days.

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

9 9. **OBEY ALL LAWS.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules
10 governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court
11 ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.

12 10. **INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY.** Respondent is hereby
13 ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement, including, but not
14 limited to, expert review, amended accusations, legal reviews, investigation(s), and subpoena
15 enforcement, as applicable, in the amount of \$23,824.75 (twenty-three thousand eight hundred
16 twenty-four dollars and seventy-five cents). Costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of
17 California. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

18 Payment must be made in full within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or
19 by a payment plan approved by the Medical Board of California. Any and all requests for a
20 payment plan shall be submitted in writing by respondent to the Board. Failure to comply with
21 the payment plan shall be considered a violation of probation.

22 The filing of bankruptcy by Respondent shall not relieve respondent of the responsibility to
23 repay investigation and enforcement costs, including expert review costs.

24 11. **QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS.** Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
25 under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been
26 compliance with all the conditions of probation.

27 Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end
28 of the preceding quarter.

1 12. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

2 Compliance with Probation Unit

3 Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

4 Address Changes

5 Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and
6 residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such
7 addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no
8 circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business
9 and Professions Code section 2021, subdivision (b).

10 Place of Practice

11 Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place
12 of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed
13 facility.

14 License Renewal

15 Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's
16 license.

17 Travel or Residence Outside California

18 Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any
19 areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty
20 (30) calendar days.

21 In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice
22 Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of
23 departure and return.

24 13. INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE. Respondent shall be
25 available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the
26 probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.

27 14. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or
28 its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than

1 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is
2 defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and
3 Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct
4 patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If
5 Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall
6 comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training
7 program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-
8 practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of
9 probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while
10 on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be
11 considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a
12 period of non-practice.

13 In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar
14 months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Boards's Special
15 Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program
16 that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model
17 Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

18 Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years.

19 Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

20 Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve
21 Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the
22 exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws;
23 General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or
24 Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

25 15. **COMPLETION OF PROBATION.** Respondent shall comply with all financial
26 obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the
27 completion of probation. This term does not include cost recovery, which is due within 30
28 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or by a payment plan approved by the Medical

1 Board and timely satisfied. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate
2 shall be fully restored.

3 16. **VIOLATION OF PROBATION.** Failure to fully comply with any term or condition
4 of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the
5 Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and
6 carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation,
7 or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have
8 continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until
9 the matter is final.

10 17. **LICENSE SURRENDER.** Following the effective date of this Decision, if
11 Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy
12 the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license.
13 The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in
14 determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate
15 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent
16 shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its
17 designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject
18 to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the
19 application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

20 18. **PROBATION MONITORING COSTS.** Respondent shall pay the costs associated
21 with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which
22 may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of
23 California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar
24 year.

25 19. **FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE.** If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for
26 a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care
27 licensing action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in
28 First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079996 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and

1 admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding
2 seeking to deny or restrict license.

3 ACCEPTANCE

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

9
10 DATED: 2/10/25 
11 CHIRAG MAHESHBHAI PANDYA, M.D.
Respondent

12 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Chirag Maheshbhai Pandya, M.D. the
13 terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and
14 Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

15
16 DATED: 2/10/25 
17 MATTHEW A. BRINEGAR, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

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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: Feb. 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California

Greg W. Chambers

GREG W. CHAMBERS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
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Attorneys for Complainant

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

10
11 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Case No. 800-2021-079996
Against:
12 **CHIRAG MAHESHBHAI PANDYA, M.D.**
13 **1465 Forenza Court**
Pleasanton, CA 94566-6496
14
15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
No. A 99084,
16 **Respondent.**

FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION

17
18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) brings 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 February 28, 2007, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
23 Certificate Number A 99084 to Chirag Maheshbhai Pandya, 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 January 31, 2027, unless renewed.

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

JURISDICTION

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

4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the
5 Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed
6 one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other
7 action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.
8

9 5. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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

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

15 (b) Gross negligence.

28 (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 2261 of the Code states:

Knowingly making or signing any certificate or other document directly or indirectly related to the practice of medicine or podiatry which falsely represents the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts, constitutes unprofessional conduct.

7. All the events alleged in this 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. Respondent is board-certified in pulmonology, critical care medicine, and sleep medicine.

10. Patient 1, who was born in 1943, had a chronic lung condition (severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).¹ On January 24, 2020, Respondent performed a bronchoscopic

¹ Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is characterized by destruction of lung tissue, which results in impaired gas exchange and abnormal increase in the amount of air volume trapped in the chest. Excessive degree of air build up places respiratory muscles at a mechanical disadvantage, resulting in progressive shortness of breath. "Patient 1" and "Patient 2" are used to protect privacy.

1 lung volume reduction with Zephyr endobronchial valve placement on Patient 1.² Respondent
2 did not take sufficient measures to ensure that a report provided to him prior to doing the
3 bronchoscopic lung volume reduction procedure on Patient 1 was in fact the proper report with
4 Patient 1's medical information. Respondent failed to do a sufficiently thorough clinical and
5 radiographic assessment before performing the endobronchial valve placement procedure on
6 Patient 1. Respondent placed the valves in the right upper lobe and right middle lobe even though
7 those lobes were healthier than other lobes in Patient 1's lungs. Patient 1 suffered post-procedure
8 complications from the bronchoscopic lung volume reduction with Zephyr endobronchial valve
9 placement, including, but not limited to, worsening hypoxia (deficiency in oxygen reaching
10 tissues) and hypercapnia (high levels of carbon dioxide in blood). Respondent removed the
11 valves from Patient 1's lung on February 6, 2020.

12 11. Patient 2, a man born in 1951, also suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary
13 disease. Also on January 24, 2020, Respondent performed lung volume reduction with Zephyr
14 endobronchial valve placement on Patient 2. Respondent did not take sufficient measures to
15 ensure that a report provided to him prior to doing the procedure on Patient 2 was in fact the
16 proper report with Patient 2's medical information. Respondent placed endobronchial valves in
17 Patient 2's lung even though endobronchial valve therapy was not medically indicated for Patient
18 2.

19 12. On May 2, 2024, the Board filed an Accusation against Respondent's physician's and
20 surgeon's certificate.

21 13. Respondent subsequently altered the Accusation and provided his employer with the
22 altered version of the Accusation, which falsely represented the allegations made by the Board
23 against Respondent.

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27 2 A bronchoscopic lung volume reduction procedure aims to stop breathlessness by
28 inserting valves (via a bronchoscope, which is a flexible, fiberoptic camera) into the most disease
affected lobe of the lung, thus allowing air to exit but not re-enter.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
(Unprofessional Conduct/ Gross Negligence – Patient 1)

3 14. Paragraphs 9 and 10 are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully stated herein.
4 Respondent has subjected his physician's and surgeon's certificate to discipline under Business
5 and Professions Code sections 2234 and 2234(b) for his care and treatment of Patient 1.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
(Unprofessional Conduct/ Repeated Negligent Acts – Patient 2)

8 15. Paragraphs 9 and 11 are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully stated herein.
9 Respondent has subjected his physician's and surgeon's certificate to discipline under Business
10 and Professions Code sections 2234 and 2234(c) for his care and treatment of Patient 2.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Unprofessional Conduct/ False Representations)

13 16. Paragraphs 12 and 13 are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully stated herein.
14 Respondent has subjected his physician's and surgeon's certificate to discipline under Business
15 and Professions Code section 2261 for altering the Accusation and providing it to his employer.

PRAYER

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

19 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 99084,
20 issued to Respondent Chirag Maheshbhai Pandya, M.D.;

21 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Chirag Maheshbhai
22 Pandya, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

23 3. Ordering Respondent Chirag Maheshbhai Pandya, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of
24 the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation
25 monitoring; and

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

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3 DATED: JAN 06 2025

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JENNA JONES FOR

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