

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

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

Andres Betts, M.D.

Case No. 800-2022-091886

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. G 55823

Respondent.

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License 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 MAY 26 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED MAY 19 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



Reji Varghese
Executive Director

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
LEANNA E. SHIELDS
Deputy Attorney General
State Bar No. 239872
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
San Diego, CA 92101
P.O. Box 85266
San Diego, CA 92186-5266
Telephone: (619) 738-9401
Facsimile: (916) 732-7920

Attorneys for Complainant

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2022-091886

**ANDRES BETTS, M.D.
32812 Gelder Circle
Menifee, CA 92584-2902**

OAH No. 2025040136

**Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. G 55823,**

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

Respondent.

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

PARTIES

1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by LeAnna E. Shields, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Andres Betts, 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 August 26, 1985, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55823 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2022-091886 and will expire on September 30, 2026, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. On or about March 14, 2025, Accusation No. 800-2022-091886 was filed before the Board and is currently pending against Respondent. On or about March 14, 2025, a true and correct copy of Accusation No. 800-2022-091886 and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 800-2022-091886 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2022-091886. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

6. Respondent is fully aware of his 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 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.

7. Having the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent agrees that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to each and every charge and allegation contained in Accusation No. 800-2022-091886, agrees that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's

1 Certificate No. G 55823 to discipline, and agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of
2 discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

3 9. Respondent further agrees that if he ever petitions for reinstatement of his Physician's
4 and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55823, or if an accusation is filed against him before the Board,
5 all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2022-091886, shall be deemed
6 true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding.

7 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue
8 an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55823
9 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.

10 **CONTINGENCY**

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

14 12. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he enables the Executive
15 Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his
16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55823 without further notice to, or opportunity to be
17 heard by, Respondent.

18 13. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the
19 approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated
20 Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his
21 consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a
22 reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and
23 Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands
24 and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the
25 time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

26 14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order
27 shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the
28 Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full

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

16 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

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

20 16. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary
21 Order, including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents
22 and signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.

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

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55823, issued to Respondent Andres Betts, M.D., is hereby surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55823 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 and surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.

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. 800-2022-091886 shall be deemed to be true, correct and fully 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 \$64,591.25 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 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2022-091886 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq. I fully understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55823. I

1 enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and
2 intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of
3 California.

4 DATED: 4-29-25


5 ANDRES BETTS, M.D.
6 Respondent

7 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Andres Betts, M.D., the terms and
8 conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary
9 Order. I approve its form and content.

10
11 DATED: April 29, 2025


12 RAYMOND J. MCMAHON, ESQ.
13 Attorney for Respondent

14 **ENDORSEMENT**

15 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is hereby
16 respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of
17 Consumer Affairs.

18 DATED: April 29, 2025

19 Respectfully submitted,
20
21 ROB BONTA
22 Attorney General of California
23 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
24 Supervising Deputy Attorney General


25
26 LEANNA E. SHIELDS
27 Deputy Attorney General
28 Attorneys for Complainant


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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2022-091886

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
3 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
4 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
5 LEANNA E. SHIELDS
6 Deputy Attorney General
7 State Bar No. 239872
8 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
9 San Diego, CA 92101
10 P.O. Box 85266
11 San Diego, CA 92186-5266
12 Telephone: (619) 738-9401
13 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061

8 | *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2022-091886

14 ANDRES BETTS, M.D.
32812 Gelder Circle
15 Menifee, CA 92584-2902

ACCUSATION

16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. G 55823,

Respondent.

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).

24 2. On or about August 26, 1985, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
25 Certificate No. G 55823 to Andres Betts, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's
26 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will
27 expire on September 30, 2026, unless renewed.

28 | //

JURISDICTION

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

5 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:

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

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

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

15 (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.

17 (b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters,
18 medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations,
19 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.

20 5. Section 2234 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

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

23

24 (b) Gross negligence.

25 (c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more
26 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.

28 //

(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.

6

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

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

DEFINITIONS

18 8. The Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) is a
19 program operated by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to assist health care practitioners
20 in their efforts to ensure appropriate prescribing of controlled substances, and law enforcement
21 and regulatory agencies in their efforts to control diversion and abuse of controlled substances.
22 (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165.) California law requires dispensing pharmacies to report to the
23 DOJ the dispensing of Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substances as soon as reasonably
24 possible after the prescriptions are filled. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165, subd. (d).) It is
25 important to note that the history of controlled substances dispensed to a specific patient based on
26 the data contained in CURES is available to a health care practitioner who is treating that patient.
27 (Health & Saf. Code, § 11165.1, subd. (a).)

28 | //

1 9. Dilauidid, a brand name for hydromorphone, is a Schedule II controlled substance
2 pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug.
3 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Hydromorphone is an opioid analgesic.
4 When properly prescribed and indicated, it is commonly used to treat moderate to severe pain.
5 The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has identified hydromorphone, such as Dilauidid,
6 as a drug of abuse. (Drugs of Abuse, DEA Resource Guide (2017 Edition), at p. 43.) The Food
7 and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued black box warnings for Dilauidid which warn about,
8 among other things, addiction, abuse and misuse, and the possibility of life-threatening
9 respiratory distress.

10 10. Gabapentin, brand name Neurontin, is an anti-epileptic drug commonly used to treat
11 seizures and epilepsy. Gabapentin is also commonly used to treat nerve pain and fibromyalgia. It
12 is classified as a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

13 11. Ketamine is a Schedule III controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code
14 section 11056, subdivision (g), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code
15 section 4022. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is commonly used to treat moderate to
16 severe pain. The DEA has identified ketamine as a drug of abuse. (Drugs of Abuse, DEA
17 Resource Guide (2017 Edition), at p. 66.)

18 12. Losartan is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022
19 commonly used for the treatment of hypertension and nephropathy.

20 13. Methadone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code
21 section 11055, subdivision (c), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code
22 section 4022. Methadone is a synthetic opioid commonly used for the treatment of opioid
23 dependence and moderate to severe pain. The DEA has identified methadone as a drug of abuse.
24 (Drugs of Abuse, DEA Resource Guide (2017 Edition), at p. 44.) The FDA has issued black box
25 warnings for methadone which warn about, among other things, addiction, abuse and misuse, and
26 the possibility of life-threatening respiratory distress.

27 14. Norco is a brand name for the drug combination of hydrocodone (5 mg, 7.5 mg, or 10
28 mg) and acetaminophen (325 mg). Hydrocodone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant

1 to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
2 Business and Professions Code section 4022. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is
3 commonly used to treat moderate to moderately severe pain. The DEA has identified opioids,
4 such as hydrocodone, as a drug of abuse. (Drugs of Abuse, DEA Resource Guide (2017 Edition),
5 at p. 47.) The FDA has issued black box warnings for hydrocodone which warn about, among
6 other things, addiction, abuse and misuse, and the possibility of life-threatening respiratory
7 distress.

8 15. Oxycodone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code
9 section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code
10 section 4022. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is commonly used to treat moderate to
11 moderately severe pain. The DEA has identified opioids, such as oxycodone, as a drug of abuse.
12 (Drugs of Abuse, DEA Resource Guide (2017 Edition), at p. 47.) The risk of respiratory
13 depression and overdose is increased with the concomitant use of benzodiazepines or when
14 prescribed to patients with pre-existing respiratory depression. The FDA has issued black box
15 warnings for oxycodone which warn about, among other things, addiction, abuse and misuse, and
16 the possibility of life-threatening respiratory distress.

17 16. OxyContin, a brand name for the extended-release version of oxycodone, is a
18 Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision
19 (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. When
20 properly prescribed and indicated, it is commonly used to treat moderate to moderately severe
21 pain. The DEA has identified opioids, such as oxycodone, as a drug of abuse. (Drugs of Abuse,
22 DEA Resource Guide (2017 Edition), at p. 47.)

23 17. Percocet is a brand name for the drug combination of oxycodone (5 mg, 7.5 mg, or 10
24 mg) and acetaminophen (325 mg). Oxycodone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to
25 Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
26 Business and Professions Code section 4022. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is
27 commonly used to treat moderate to moderately severe pain. The DEA has identified oxycodone
28 as a drug of abuse. (Drugs of Abuse, A DEA Resource Guide (2017 Edition), at p. 47.) The FDA

1 has issued a black box warning for Percocet which warns about, among other things, addiction,
2 abuse and misuse, and the possibility of life-threatening respiratory distress.

3 18. Robaxin is a brand name for methocarbamol, a dangerous drug pursuant to Business
4 and Professions Code section 4022. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is commonly
5 used as a muscle relaxant.

6 19. Soma, a brand name for carisoprodol, is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant
7 to 21 C.F.R. § 1308.14, and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section
8 4022. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is commonly used as a muscle relaxant.

9 According to the DEA, Office of Diversion Control, published comment on carisoprodol, dated
10 March 2014, “[c]arisoprodol abuse has escalated in the last decade in the United
11 States...According to Diversion Drug Trends, published by the Drug Enforcement Administration
12 on the trends in diversion of controlled and non-controlled pharmaceuticals, carisoprodol
13 continues to be one of the most commonly diverted drugs.”

14 20. Tramadol is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to 21 C.F.R. § 1308.14, and
15 a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. It is an opioid pain
16 medication. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is commonly used to treat moderate to
17 severe pain. The FDA has issued a black box warning for tramadol which warns about, among
18 other things, addiction, abuse and misuse, and the possibility of life-threatening respiratory
19 distress.

20 21. Valium, a brand name for diazepam, is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant
21 to Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
22 Business and Professions Code section 4022. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is
23 commonly used to treat anxiety disorders or for the short-term relief of anxiety. Concomitant use
24 of Valium with opioids “may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and
25 death.” The DEA has identified benzodiazepines, such as Valium, as a drug of abuse. (Drugs of
26 Abuse, A DEA Resource Guide (2017 Edition), at p. 59.) The FDA has issued a black box
27 warning for Valium which warns about, among other things, addiction, abuse and misuse, and the
28 possibility of life-threatening respiratory distress when combined with opioids.

1 22. Vyvanse, a brand name for lisdexamfetamine, is a Schedule II controlled substance
2 pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (d), and a dangerous drug
3 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Vyvanse is a CNS stimulant commonly
4 used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The FDA has issued a black box warning for
5 Vyvanse which warns about, among other things, addiction, abuse and misuse.

6 23. Wellbutrin, a brand name for bupropion, is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business
7 and Professions Code section 4022. Bupropion is an antidepressant commonly used to treat
8 depression or seasonal affective disorder. The FDA has issued a black box warning for
9 bupropion which warns about, among other things, suicidality.

10 24. Xanax, a brand name for alprazolam, is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant
11 to Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
12 Business and Professions Code section 4022. Alprazolam is a short-acting benzodiazepine.
13 When properly prescribed and indicated, it is commonly used to relieve anxiety. Concomitant
14 use of Xanax with opioids "may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and
15 death." The DEA has identified benzodiazepines, such as Xanax, as a drug of abuse. (Drugs of
16 Abuse, DEA Resource Guide (2017 Edition), at p. 59.) The FDA has issued a black box warning
17 for Xanax which warns about, among other things, addiction, abuse and misuse, and the
18 possibility of life-threatening respiratory distress when combined with opioids.

19 25. Zoloft, a brand name for sertraline, is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and
20 Professions Code section 4022. When properly prescribed and indicated, it is commonly used to
21 treat major depressive disorder, panic disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder. The FDA has
22 issued a black box warning for Zoloft which warns about, among other things, suicidality.

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FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS¹

Patient A²

26. On or about June 1, 2006, Patient A, a then 39-year-old male, presented for an initial consultation with Respondent for pain management after suffering extensive soft tissue damage to his right lower extremity as a result of a dune buggy accident in or around October 2005.

27. From on or about 2006 through on or about 2022, Respondent provided care and treatment to Patient A for, among other things, chronic pain.

28. From on or about 2006 through on or about 2022, according to records and CURES, Respondent regularly issued prescriptions to Patient A for various medications and controlled substances, including, but not limited to, Norco, Oxycodone, methadone, gabapentin and bupropion.

29. In 2018, Patient A presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not limited to, in or around January, February, May, August and November. Respondent's handwritten records for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination by Respondent, and provide minimal details regarding Patient A's pain levels or response to pain medications. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient A or any discussion with Patient A regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient A. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient A for Norco, methadone and gabapentin.

30. In 2019, Patient A presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not limited to, in or around February, May, July, September and November. Respondent's handwritten records for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination

¹ Conduct occurring more than seven (7) years from the filing date of this Accusation is for informational purposes only and is not alleged as a basis for disciplinary action.

² Patients' true names are not used in the instant Accusation to maintain patient confidentiality. The patients' identities are known to Respondent or will be disclosed to Respondent upon receipt of a duly issued request for discovery and in accordance with Government Code section 11507.6.

1 by Respondent, and provide minimal details regarding Patient A's pain levels or response to pain
2 medications. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of
3 medications prescribed to Patient A or any discussion with Patient A regarding the risks and
4 benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient A. On or about
5 September 10, 2019, Respondent also documented Wellbutrin as one of Patient A's medications
6 with no further details. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular
7 prescriptions to Patient A for Norco, methadone and gabapentin.

8 31. In 2020, Patient A presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
9 limited to, in or around January, April, June, August and October. Respondent's handwritten
10 records for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination by
11 Respondent, and provide minimal details regarding Patient A's pain levels or response to pain
12 medications. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of
13 medications prescribed to Patient A or any discussion with Patient A regarding the risks and
14 benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient A. On or about
15 June 24, 2020, Respondent again documented Wellbutrin as one of Patient A's medications with
16 no further details. On or about October 8, 2020, Respondent noted Patient A requested more
17 methadone. According to records and CURES, Respondent tripled Patient A's prescription for
18 methadone going forward and continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient A for Norco.

19 32. In 2021, Patient A presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
20 limited to, in or around January, April, May and November. Respondent's handwritten records
21 for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination by Respondent, and
22 provide minimal details regarding Patient A's pain levels or response to pain medications.
23 Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
24 prescribed to Patient A or any discussion with Patient A regarding the risks and benefits of taking
25 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient A. On or about November 18,
26 2021, Respondent noted Patient A now presented with complaints of back pain with no further
27 details or physical examination. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued to
28 issue regular prescriptions to Patient A for Norco and methadone.

1 33. In 2022, Patient A presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
2 limited to, in or around January, March, June, August and October. Respondent's handwritten
3 records for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination by
4 Respondent, and provide minimal details regarding Patient A's pain levels or response to pain
5 medications. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of
6 medications prescribed to Patient A or any discussion with Patient A regarding the risks and
7 benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient A. On or about
8 January 18, 2022, Respondent noted a prescription to Patient A for gabapentin with no further
9 details. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to
10 Patient A for Norco and methadone.

11 34. At no time throughout Respondent's care and treatment of Patient A did Respondent
12 order an EKG to obtain a baseline and/or to monitor for possible negative cardiac side effects of
13 methadone.

14 **Patient B**

15 35. On or about March 19, 2019, Patient B, a then 49-year-old female, presented for an
16 initial consultation with Respondent for pain management of her chronic low back pain.
17 Respondent's notes for this visit indicate Patient B had a previous radiofrequency ablation
18 procedure which provided pain relief. Respondent's notes also indicate Patient B was regularly
19 receiving prescriptions for Percocet and Xanax from her previous providers.

20 36. On or about May 8, 2019, Patient B presented for a follow-up visit with Respondent.
21 Respondent's handwritten records for this visit are at times illegible but indicate Patient B was
22 taking up to eight (8) Percocet per day and exhibited slurred speech. Respondent's records for
23 this visit document little to no physical examination by Respondent, and provide minimal details
24 regarding Patient B's pain level, noting only that she fell recently and has an increase in pain.
25 According to records, Respondent continued Patient B's prescription for Percocet but failed to
26 note Patient B's prescription for Xanax in his records. Respondent's records for this visit also fail
27 to document any discussion with Patient B regarding the risks and benefits of taking the
28 controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient B.

1 37. On or about July 8, 2019, Patient B presented for a follow-up visit with Respondent.
2 Respondent's handwritten records for this visit are at times illegible but indicate Patient B was
3 using less Percocet. Respondent's records for this visit document little to no physical
4 examination by Respondent and provide no details regarding Patient B's pain level. According to
5 records, Respondent continued Patient B's prescription for Percocet but failed to note Patient B's
6 prescription for Xanax in his records. Respondent's records for this visit also fail to document
7 any discussion with Patient B regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances
8 prescribed by Respondent to Patient B.

9 38. On or about August 19, 2019, Patient B presented for her final visit with Respondent.
10 Respondent's handwritten records for this visit are at times illegible but indicate Patient B
11 complained of lower abdominal pain. Respondent's records for this visit document little to no
12 physical examination by Respondent and provide no details regarding Patient B's pain level.
13 According to records, Respondent continued Patient B's prescription for Percocet but failed to
14 note Patient B's prescription for Xanax in his records. Respondent's records for this visit also fail
15 to document any discussion with Patient B regarding the risks and benefits of taking the
16 controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient B. Records for this visit note a plan to
17 refer Patient B to another pain management physician with no further details.

18 **Patient C**

19 39. On or about February 21, 2018, Patient C, a then 35-year-old female, presented for an
20 initial consultation with Respondent for pain management of her chronic low back pain and left
21 leg pain. Respondent's notes for this visit indicate Patient C was regularly receiving prescriptions
22 for Zoloft and tramadol.

23 40. From on or about 2018 through on or about 2023, Respondent provided care and
24 treatment to Patient C for, among other things, chronic pain.

25 41. From on or about 2019 through on or about 2023, according to records and CURES,
26 Respondent regularly issued prescriptions to Patient C for various medications and controlled
27 substances, including, but not limited to, Percocet and methadone.

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1 42. On or about October 15, 2020, Respondent ordered a urine drug screen for Patient C.
2 According to records, Patient C tested positive for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), methadone and
3 oxycodone. However, records do not document any discussion by Respondent with Patient C
4 regarding the presence of THC in Patient C's lab results.

5 43. On or about August 3, 2021, Patient C presented for a follow-up visit with
6 Respondent. Respondent's handwritten records for this visit are at times illegible but indicate
7 Patient C had widespread pain with no further details regarding Patient C's pain levels or
8 response to pain medications. Respondent's records for this visit document little to no physical
9 examination by Respondent, noting only that Patient C was alert, oriented and had normal speech.
10 Respondent's records for this visit also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed
11 to Patient C or any discussion with Patient C regarding the risks and benefits of taking the
12 controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient C.

13 44. On or about October 6, 2021, Patient C presented for a follow-up visit with
14 Respondent. Respondent's handwritten records for this visit are at times illegible and provide
15 minimal details regarding Patient C's pain levels or response to pain medications. Respondent's
16 records for this visit document little to no physical examination by Respondent, noting only that
17 Patient C was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records for this visit also fail
18 to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient C or any discussion with Patient
19 C regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to
20 Patient C. According to records, Patient C expressed a desire to try ketamine, and that
21 Respondent issued a prescription to Patient C for ketamine nasal spray.

22 45. On or about December 13, 2021, Patient C presented for a follow-up visit with
23 Respondent. Respondent's handwritten records for this visit are at times illegible and provide
24 minimal details regarding Patient C's pain levels or response to pain medications. Respondent's
25 records for this visit document little to no physical examination by Respondent, noting only that
26 Patient C was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records for this visit also fail
27 to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient C or any discussion with Patient
28 C regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to

1 Patient C. According to records, the ketamine was helpful for Patient C's depression and Patient
2 C was using less Percocet.

3 46. In 2022, Patient C presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
4 limited to, in or around February, April, July, September and November. Respondent's
5 handwritten records for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination
6 by Respondent, often noting only that Patient C was alert, oriented and had normal speech.
7 Respondent's records for these visits provide minimal details regarding Patient C's pain levels or
8 response to pain medications. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a
9 complete list of medications prescribed to Patient C or any discussion with Patient C regarding
10 the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient C.
11 According to records and CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient
12 C for Percocet, methadone and ketamine.

13 47. In 2023, Patient C presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
14 limited to, in or around January, March and April. Respondent's handwritten records for these
15 visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination by Respondent, often noting
16 only that Patient C was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records for these
17 visits provide minimal details regarding Patient C's pain levels or response to pain medications.
18 Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
19 prescribed to Patient C or any discussion with Patient C regarding the risks and benefits of taking
20 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient C. According to records and
21 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient C for Percocet,
22 methadone and ketamine.

23 48. At no time throughout Respondent's care and treatment of Patient C did Respondent
24 order an EKG to obtain a baseline and/or to monitor for possible negative cardiac side effects of
25 methadone.

26 **Patient D**

27 49. On or about April 16, 2014, Patient D, a then 50-year-old male, presented for an
28 initial consultation with Respondent for pain management of his chronic back pain.

1 50. From on or about 2014 through on or about 2024, Respondent provided care and
2 treatment to Patient D for, among other things, chronic back pain.

3 51. From on or about 2014 through on or about 2024, according to records and CURES,
4 Respondent regularly issued prescriptions to Patient D for various medications and controlled
5 substances, including, but not limited to, Percocet, oxycodone, methadone, and Valium.

6 52. From on or about 2020 through 2022, according to CURES, Patient D also received
7 regular prescriptions from other providers for controlled substances, including, but not limited to,
8 Soma and Norco.

9 53. In 2019, Patient D presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
10 limited to, in or around January, March, May, August and October. Respondent's handwritten
11 records for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination by
12 Respondent, often noting only that Patient D was alert, oriented and had normal speech, and
13 provide minimal details regarding Patient D's pain levels or response to pain medications.
14 Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
15 prescribed to Patient D or any discussion with Patient D regarding the risks and benefits of taking
16 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient D. According to records and
17 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient D for Percocet and
18 methadone.

19 54. In 2020, Patient D presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
20 limited to, in or around January, March, May, July, October and December. Respondent's
21 handwritten records for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination
22 by Respondent, often noting only that Patient D was alert, oriented and had normal speech, and
23 provide minimal details regarding Patient D's pain levels or response to pain medications.
24 Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
25 prescribed to Patient D or any discussion with Patient D regarding the risks and benefits of taking
26 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient D. According to records and
27 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient D for Percocet,
28 methadone and Valium.

1 55. In 2021, Patient D presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
2 limited to, in or around February, May, June, September and December. Respondent's
3 handwritten records for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination
4 by Respondent, often noting only that Patient D was alert, oriented and had normal speech, and
5 provide minimal details regarding Patient D's pain levels or response to pain medications.
6 Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
7 prescribed to Patient D or any discussion with Patient D regarding the risks and benefits of taking
8 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient D. According to records and
9 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient D for Percocet,
10 methadone and Valium.

11 56. In 2022, Patient D presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
12 limited to, in or around March, May, July, September and November. Respondent's handwritten
13 records for these visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination by
14 Respondent, often noting only that Patient D was alert, oriented and had normal speech, and
15 provide minimal details regarding Patient D's pain levels or response to pain medications.
16 Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
17 prescribed to Patient D or any discussion with Patient D regarding the risks and benefits of taking
18 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient D. According to records and
19 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient D for Percocet,
20 methadone and Valium.

21 57. In 2023, Patient D presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
22 limited to, in or around January, March and May. Respondent's handwritten records for these
23 visits are often illegible, document little to no physical examination by Respondent, often noting
24 only that Patient D was alert, oriented and had normal speech, and provide minimal details
25 regarding Patient D's pain levels or response to pain medications. Respondent's records for these
26 visits also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient D or any
27 discussion with Patient D regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances

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1 prescribed by Respondent to Patient D. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued
2 to issue regular prescriptions to Patient D for Percocet, methadone and Valium.

3 58. At no time throughout Respondent's care and treatment of Patient D did Respondent
4 order an EKG to obtain a baseline and/or to monitor for possible negative cardiac side effects of
5 methadone.

6 Patient E

7 59. On or about August 24, 2015, Patient E, a then 58-year-old female, presented for an
8 initial consultation with Respondent for pain management for severe low back pain after being
9 involved in a motor vehicle accident in or around April 2015.

10 60. From on or about 2015 through on or about 2023, Respondent provided care and
11 treatment to Patient E for, among other things, chronic pain.

12 61. From on or about 2015 through on or about 2017, according to records and CURES,
13 Respondent regularly issued prescriptions to Patient E for various medications and controlled
14 substances, including, but not limited to, Percocet, Soma and tramadol.

15 62. In 2018, Patient E presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
16 limited to, in or around February, May, July, August and October. Respondent's handwritten
17 records for these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by
18 Respondent, often noting only that Patient E was alert, oriented and had normal speech.
19 Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
20 prescribed to Patient E or any discussion with Patient E regarding the risks and benefits of taking
21 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient E. According to records and
22 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient E for Percocet, Soma and
23 tramadol.

24 63. In 2019, Patient E presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
25 limited to, in or around January, March, June, August and October. Respondent's handwritten
26 records for these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by
27 Respondent, often noting only that Patient E was alert, oriented and had normal speech.
28 Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications

1 prescribed to Patient E or any discussion with Patient E regarding the risks and benefits of taking
2 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient E. According to records and
3 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient E for Percocet, Soma and
4 tramadol.

5 64. In 2020, Patient E presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
6 limited to, in or around January, April, July and October. Respondent's handwritten records for
7 these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by Respondent,
8 often noting only that Patient E was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records
9 for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient E or any
10 discussion with Patient E regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances
11 prescribed by Respondent to Patient E. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued
12 to issue regular prescriptions to Patient E for Percocet, Soma and tramadol.

13 65. In 2021, Patient E presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
14 limited to, in or around January, March, May, June, September and December. Respondent's
15 handwritten records for these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical
16 examination by Respondent, often noting only that Patient E was alert, oriented and had normal
17 speech. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
18 prescribed to Patient E or any discussion with Patient E regarding the risks and benefits of taking
19 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient E. According to records and
20 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient E for Percocet, Soma and
21 tramadol.

22 66. In 2022, Patient E presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
23 limited to, in or around March, May, August and October. Respondent's handwritten records for
24 these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by Respondent,
25 often noting only that Patient E was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records
26 for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient E or any
27 discussion with Patient E regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances

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1 prescribed by Respondent to Patient E. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued
2 to issue regular prescriptions to Patient E for Percocet, Soma and tramadol.

3 67. On or about March 7, 2022, Patient E presented for a follow-up visit with
4 Respondent. Respondent's records for this visit indicate they discussed trying methadone with no
5 further details regarding any discussion with Patient E regarding the risks and benefits of taking
6 methadone or any further physical examination beyond noting that Patient E was alert, oriented,
7 and had normal speech. According to records and CURES, Respondent also began to issue
8 regular prescriptions to Patient E for methadone from this visit going forward.

9 68. In 2023, Patient E presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
10 limited to, in or around January and April. Respondent's handwritten records for these visits are
11 often illegible and document little to no physical examination by Respondent, often noting only
12 that Patient E was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records for these visits
13 also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient E or any discussion with
14 Patient E regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by
15 Respondent to Patient E. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued to issue
16 regular prescriptions to Patient E for Percocet, Soma, tramadol and methadone.

17 69. At no time throughout Respondent's care and treatment of Patient E did Respondent
18 order an EKG to obtain a baseline and/or to monitor for possible negative cardiac side effects of
19 methadone.

20 Patient F

21 70. On or about June 26, 2017, Patient F, a then 60-year-old male, presented for an initial
22 consultation with Respondent for pain management of his shoulder and neck pain. Respondent's
23 notes for this visit indicate Patient F was regularly receiving prescriptions for Percocet.

24 71. From on or about 2017 through on or about 2023, Respondent provided care and
25 treatment to Patient F for, among other things, chronic pain.

26 72. From on or about 2017 through on or about 2023, according to records and CURES,
27 Respondent regularly issued prescriptions to Patient F for various medications and controlled
28 substances, including, but not limited, Percocet.

1 73. On or about October 24, 2017, Patient F presented for a visit with Respondent.
2 According to Respondent's records for this visit, Respondent began regularly issuing
3 prescriptions to Patient F for Soma without any documentation of a discussion with Patient F
4 regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to
5 Patient F, specifically, Percocet and Soma. According to records and CURES, from this visit
6 forward, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient F for Percocet and Soma.

7 74. In 2018, Patient F presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
8 limited to, in or around February, April, May, August, October and December. Respondent's
9 handwritten records for these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical
10 examination by Respondent, often noting only that Patient F was alert, oriented and had normal
11 speech. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
12 prescribed to Patient F or any discussion with Patient F regarding the risks and benefits of taking
13 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient F. According to records and
14 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient F for Percocet and Soma.

15 75. In 2019, Patient F presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
16 limited to, in or around January, March, May, July, September and November. Respondent's
17 handwritten records for these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical
18 examination by Respondent, often noting only that Patient F was alert, oriented and had normal
19 speech. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
20 prescribed to Patient F or any discussion with Patient F regarding the risks and benefits of taking
21 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient F. According to records and
22 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient F for Percocet and Soma.

23 76. In 2020, Patient F presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
24 limited to, in or around January, February, April, June, August, October and December.
25 Respondent's handwritten records for these visits are often illegible and document little to no
26 physical examination by Respondent, often noting only that Patient F was alert, oriented and had
27 normal speech. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of
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1 medications prescribed to Patient F or any discussion with Patient F regarding the risks and
2 benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient F. According to
3 records and CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient F for Percocet
4 and Soma.

5 77. On or about June 17, 2020, Patient F presented for a visit with Respondent.
6 According to Respondent's records for this visit, Patient F informed Respondent that he wanted to
7 "try methadone." According to Respondent's records for this visit, Respondent began regularly
8 issuing prescriptions to Patient F for methadone, but the records do not document any rationale
9 for initiating a prescription for methadone or any discussion with Patient F regarding the risks and
10 benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient F, specifically,
11 Percocet, Soma and methadone. According to records and CURES, from this visit forward,
12 Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient F for Percocet, Soma and
13 methadone.

14 78. In 2021, Patient F presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
15 limited to, in or around March, May, July and November. Respondent's handwritten records for
16 these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by Respondent,
17 often noting only that Patient F was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records
18 for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient F or any
19 discussion with Patient F regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances
20 prescribed by Respondent to Patient F. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued
21 to issue regular prescriptions to Patient F for Percocet, Soma and methadone.

22 79. In 2022, Patient F presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
23 limited to, in or around February, March, May, July, August and October. Respondent's
24 handwritten records for these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical
25 examination by Respondent, often noting only that Patient F was alert, oriented and had normal
26 speech. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
27 prescribed to Patient F or any discussion with Patient F regarding the risks and benefits of taking
28 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient F. According to records and

1 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient F for Percocet, Soma and
2 methadone.

3 80. In 2023, Patient F presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
4 limited to, in or around January, March and June. Respondent's handwritten records for these
5 visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by Respondent, often
6 noting only that Patient F was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records for
7 these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient F or any
8 discussion with Patient F regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances
9 prescribed by Respondent to Patient F. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued
10 to issue regular prescriptions to Patient F for Percocet, Soma and methadone.

11 81. At no time throughout Respondent's care and treatment of Patient F did Respondent
12 order an EKG to obtain a baseline and/or to monitor for possible negative cardiac side effects of
13 methadone.

14 | Patient G

15 82. On or about September 27, 2016, Patient G, a then 54-year-old female, presented for
16 an initial consultation with Respondent for pain management of her lower back pain, degenerative
17 disc disease and sciatica. Respondent's notes for this visit indicate Patient G was regularly
18 receiving prescriptions for Norco and Valium.

19 83. From on or about 2016 through on or about 2023, Respondent provided care and
20 treatment to Patient G for, among other things, chronic pain.

21 84. From on or about 2016 through on or about 2023, according to records and CURES,
22 Respondent regularly issued prescriptions to Patient G for various medications and controlled
23 substances, including, but not limited to, Percocet, Robaxin and Soma.

24 85. In 2018, Patient G presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
25 limited to, in or around February, May, July, August and November. Respondent's handwritten
26 records for these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by
27 Respondent, often noting only that Patient G was alert, oriented and had normal speech.

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1 Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
2 prescribed to Patient G or any discussion with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking
3 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient G. According to records and
4 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient G for Percocet and Soma.

5 86. On or about January 24, 2019, Patient G presented for a visit with Respondent.
6 According to Respondent's records for this visit, which are largely illegible, a notation indicates
7 the possibility of starting methadone but with no further documentation regarding his rationale for
8 adding methadone to Patient G's pain management regimen. Records for this visit do not
9 document any discussion with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled
10 substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient G, specifically, Percocet, Soma and methadone.
11 Records for this visit also document little to no physical examination by Respondent, noting only
12 that Patient G was alert, oriented, had normal speech, and ambulates well.

13 87. On or about March 19, 2019, Patient G presented for a visit with Respondent.
14 According to Respondent's records for this visit, which are largely illegible, a notation indicates
15 Respondent issued a prescription for methadone to Patient G but with no further documentation
16 regarding his rationale for adding methadone to Patient G's pain management regimen. Records
17 for this visit do not document any discussion with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of
18 taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient G, specifically, Percocet,
19 Soma and methadone. Records for this visit also document little to no physical examination by
20 Respondent, noting only that Patient G was alert, oriented, had normal speech, and ambulates
21 well.

22 88. On or about May 9, 2019, Patient G presented for a visit with Respondent. According
23 to Respondent's records for this visit, which are largely illegible, a notation indicates Respondent
24 increased Patient G's prescription for Percocet but with no further documentation regarding his
25 rationale for this change. Records for this visit also indicate Patient G had a family member with
26 a history of drug dependence. Records for this visit do not document any discussion with Patient
27 G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent
28 to Patient G, specifically, Percocet, Soma and methadone. Records for this visit also document

1 little to no physical examination by Respondent, noting only that Patient G was alert, oriented,
2 had normal speech, and ambulates well.

3 89. On or about October 17, 2019, Patient G presented for a visit with Respondent.
4 According to Respondent's records for this visit, which are largely illegible, a notation indicates
5 Respondent increased Patient G's prescription for Percocet but with no further documentation
6 regarding his rationale for this change. Records for this visit do not document any discussion
7 with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by
8 Respondent to Patient G, specifically, Percocet and methadone. Records for this visit also
9 document little to no physical examination by Respondent, noting only that Patient G was alert,
10 oriented, and had normal speech.

11 90. In 2019, Patient G presented for additional visits with Respondent including, but not
12 limited to, in or around July, August and December. Respondent's handwritten records for these
13 visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by Respondent, often
14 noting only that Patient G was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records for
15 these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient G or any
16 discussion with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances
17 prescribed by Respondent to Patient G. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued
18 to issue regular prescriptions to Patient G for Percocet, Robaxin and methadone, but do not
19 document Respondent's rationale for no longer prescribing Soma to Patient G.

20 91. On or about February 11, 2020, Patient G presented for a visit with Respondent.
21 According to Respondent's records for this visit, which are largely illegible, a notation indicates
22 Respondent resumed Patient G's prescription for Soma but with no further documentation
23 regarding his rationale for this change. Records for this visit do not document any discussion
24 with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by
25 Respondent to Patient G, specifically, Percocet, Soma and methadone, noting only that Patient G
26 wanted to resume his prescription for Robaxin. Records for this visit also document little to no
27 physical examination by Respondent, noting only that Patient G was alert, oriented, had normal
28 speech, and ambulates well.

1 92. In 2020, Patient G presented for additional visits with Respondent including, but not
2 limited to, in or around April, July, September and November. Respondent's handwritten records
3 for these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by Respondent,
4 often noting only that Patient G was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records
5 for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient G or any
6 discussion with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances
7 prescribed by Respondent to Patient G. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued
8 to issue regular prescriptions to Patient G for Percocet, Robaxin and methadone, but do not
9 document Respondent's rationale for no longer prescribing Soma to Patient G.

10 93. On or about January 11, 2021, Patient G presented for a visit with Respondent.
11 According to Respondent's records for this visit, which are largely illegible, Patient G continued
12 to receive prescriptions from Respondent for Percocet, Robaxin and methadone and that Patient
13 G's pain was controlled with medications. Records for this visit do not document any discussion
14 with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by
15 Respondent to Patient G, specifically, Percocet and methadone. Records for this visit also
16 document little to no physical examination by Respondent, noting only that Patient G was alert,
17 oriented, and had normal speech.

18 94. On or about March 3, 2021, Patient G presented for a visit with Respondent.
19 According to Respondent's records for this visit, which are largely illegible, a notation indicates
20 Patient G wanted to "try Soma" with no further documentation regarding Patient G's reason for
21 this request to add Soma to Patient G's pain management regimen. Records for this visit do not
22 document any discussion with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled
23 substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient G, specifically, Percocet, Soma and methadone.
24 Records for this visit also document little to no physical examination by Respondent, noting only
25 that Patient G was alert, oriented, had normal speech, and ambulates well.

26 95. On or about April 28, 2021, Patient G presented for a visit with Respondent.
27 According to Respondent's records for this visit, which are largely illegible, a notation indicates
28 Patient G wanted "Soma today" with no further documentation regarding Patient G's reason for

1 this request to add Soma to Patient G's pain management regimen. Records for this visit do not
2 document any discussion with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled
3 substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient G, specifically, Percocet, Soma and methadone.
4 Records for this visit also document little to no physical examination by Respondent, noting only
5 that Patient G was alert, oriented, and had normal speech.

6 96. In 2021, Patient G presented for additional visits with Respondent including, but not
7 limited to, in or around July, September and November. Respondent's handwritten records for
8 these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical examination by Respondent,
9 often noting only that Patient G was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records
10 for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient G or any
11 discussion with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances
12 prescribed by Respondent to Patient G. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued
13 to issue regular prescriptions to Patient G for Percocet, Soma and methadone.

14 97. In 2022, Patient G presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
15 limited to, in or around January, March, May, August, September and November. Respondent's
16 handwritten records for these visits are often illegible and document little to no physical
17 examination by Respondent, often noting only that Patient G was alert, oriented and had normal
18 speech. Respondent's records for these visits also fail to document a complete list of medications
19 prescribed to Patient G or any discussion with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking
20 the controlled substances prescribed by Respondent to Patient G. According to records and
21 CURES, Respondent continued to issue regular prescriptions to Patient G for Percocet, Soma and
22 methadone.

23 98. In 2023, Patient G presented for several visits with Respondent including, but not
24 limited to, in or around January and March. Respondent's handwritten records for these visits are
25 often illegible and document little to no physical examination by Respondent, often noting only
26 that Patient G was alert, oriented and had normal speech. Respondent's records for these visits
27 also fail to document a complete list of medications prescribed to Patient G or any discussion
28 with Patient G regarding the risks and benefits of taking the controlled substances prescribed by

1 Respondent to Patient G. According to records and CURES, Respondent continued to issue
2 regular prescriptions to Patient G for Percocet, Soma and methadone.

3 99. At no time throughout Respondent's care and treatment of Patient G did Respondent
4 order an EKG to obtain a baseline and/or to monitor for possible negative cardiac side effects of
5 methadone.

6 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

7 **(Gross Negligence)**

8 100. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55823 to
9 disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of
10 the Code, in that Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patients A,
11 B, C, D, E, F and G, as more particularly alleged hereinafter.

12 **Patient A**

13 101. Paragraphs 26 through 34, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged
14 as if fully set forth herein.

15 102. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A in that
16 he failed to order an EKG for Patient A before prescribing methadone to obtain a baseline and/or
17 annually to monitor for potential negative side effects of methadone while regularly issuing
18 prescriptions to Patient A for methadone.

19 **Patient B**

20 103. Paragraphs 35 through 38, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged
21 as if fully set forth herein.

22 104. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient B in that
23 he failed to consider the potential drug-to-drug risks and/or interactions while prescribing various
24 controlled substances to Patient B, including, but not limited to, Percocet and Xanax, and/or
25 failed to discuss and/or document a discussion with Patient B regarding the potential drug-to-drug
26 risks and/or interactions posed by the combination of these controlled substances prescribed to
27 Patient B.

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1 **Patient C**

2 105. Paragraphs 39 through 48, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged
3 as if fully set forth herein.

4 106. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient C in that
5 he failed to order an EKG for Patient C before prescribing methadone to obtain a baseline and/or
6 annually to monitor for potential negative side effects of methadone while regularly issuing
7 prescriptions to Patient C for methadone.

8 107. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient C in that
9 he failed to consider the potential drug-to-drug risks and/or interactions while prescribing various
10 controlled substances to Patient C, including, but not limited to, Percocet, methadone, and
11 ketamine, and/or failed to discuss and/or document a discussion with Patient C regarding the
12 potential drug-to-drug risks and/or interactions posed by the combination of these controlled
13 substances prescribed to Patient C, noting only that Patient C wanted to "try ketamine."

14 **Patient D**

15 108. Paragraphs 49 through 58, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged
16 as if fully set forth herein.

17 109. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient D in that
18 he failed to order an EKG for Patient D before prescribing methadone to obtain a baseline and/or
19 annually to monitor for potential negative side effects of methadone while regularly issuing
20 prescriptions to Patient D for methadone.

21 110. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient D in that
22 he failed to consider the potential drug-to-drug risks and/or interactions while prescribing various
23 controlled substances to Patient D, including, but not limited to, Percocet, methadone, and
24 Valium, and/or failed to discuss and/or document a discussion with Patient D regarding the
25 potential drug-to-drug risks and/or interactions posed by the combination of these controlled
26 substances prescribed to Patient D.

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1 **Patient E**

2 111. Paragraphs 59 through 69, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged
3 as if fully set forth herein.

4 112. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient E in that
5 he failed to order an EKG for Patient E before prescribing methadone to obtain a baseline and/or
6 annually to monitor for potential negative side effects of methadone while regularly issuing
7 prescriptions to Patient E for methadone.

8 113. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient E in that
9 he failed to consider the potential drug-to-drug risks and/or interactions while prescribing various
10 controlled substances to Patient E, including, but not limited to, Percocet, Soma, tramadol,
11 methadone and losartan, and/or failed to discuss and/or document a discussion with Patient E
12 regarding the potential drug-to-drug risks and/or interactions posed by the combination of these
13 controlled substances prescribed to Patient E.

14 **Patient F**

15 114. Paragraphs 70 through 81, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged
16 as if fully set forth herein.

17 115. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient F in that
18 he failed to order an EKG for Patient F before prescribing methadone to obtain a baseline and/or
19 annually to monitor for potential negative side effects of methadone while regularly issuing
20 prescriptions to Patient F for methadone.

21 116. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient F in that
22 he failed to consider the potential drug-to-drug risks and/or interactions while prescribing various
23 controlled substances to Patient F, including, but not limited to, Percocet, Soma and methadone,
24 and/or failed to discuss and/or document a discussion with Patient F regarding the potential drug-
25 to-drug risks and/or interactions posed by the combination of these controlled substances
26 prescribed to Patient F.

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1 **Patient G**

2 117. Paragraphs 82 through 99, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged
3 as if fully set forth herein.

4 118. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient G in that
5 he failed to order an EKG for Patient G before prescribing methadone to obtain a baseline and/or
6 annually to monitor for potential negative side effects of methadone while regularly issuing
7 prescriptions to Patient G for methadone.

8 119. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient G in that
9 he failed to consider the potential drug-to-drug risks and/or interactions while prescribing various
10 controlled substances to Patient G, including, but not limited to, Percocet, Soma and methadone,
11 and/or failed to discuss and/or document a discussion with Patient G regarding the potential drug-
12 to-drug risks and/or interactions posed by the combination of these controlled substances
13 prescribed to Patient G and/or resuming Soma prescriptions without a documented reason.

14 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

15 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

16 120. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G
17 55823 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,
18 subdivision (c), of the Code, in that Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and
19 treatment of Patients A, B, C, D, E, F and G, as more particularly alleged hereinafter.

20 **Patient A**

21 121. Paragraphs 26 through 34, and 101 through 102, above, are hereby incorporated by
22 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

23 122. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts throughout his care and treatment of
24 Patient A in that he failed to follow the standard of care for prescribing pain medications to
25 Patient A, including, but not limited to, failing to perform an appropriate physical examination of
26 Patient A, failing to determine and/or confirm all medications prescribed to Patient A to evaluate
27 for potential drug-to-drug interactions, failing to evaluate Patient A's pain level and/or response

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1 to pain medications, and/or failing to maintain legible and/or adequate documentation of his
2 medical rationale, before issuing Patient A's prescriptions for pain medications.

3 **Patient B**

4 123. Paragraphs 35 through 38, and 103 through 104, above, are hereby incorporated by
5 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

6 124. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts throughout his care and treatment of
7 Patient B in that he failed to follow the standard of care for prescribing pain medications to
8 Patient B, including, but not limited to, failing to perform an appropriate physical examination of
9 Patient B, failing to determine and/or confirm all medications prescribed to Patient B to evaluate
10 for potential drug-to-drug interactions, failing to evaluate Patient B's pain level and/or response
11 to pain medications, and/or failing to maintain legible and/or adequate documentation of his
12 medical rationale, before issuing Patient B's prescriptions for pain medications.

13 **Patient C**

14 125. Paragraphs 39 through 48, and 105 through 107, above, are hereby incorporated by
15 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

16 126. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts throughout his care and treatment of
17 Patient C in that he failed to follow the standard of care for prescribing pain medications to
18 Patient C, including, but not limited to, failing to perform an appropriate physical examination of
19 Patient C, failing to determine and/or confirm all medications prescribed to Patient C to evaluate
20 for potential drug-to-drug interactions, failing to evaluate Patient C's pain level and/or response
21 to pain medications, and/or failing to maintain legible and/or adequate documentation of his
22 medical rationale, before issuing Patient C's prescriptions for pain medications.

23 **Patient D**

24 127. Paragraphs 49 through 58, and 108 through 110, above, are hereby incorporated by
25 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

26 128. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts throughout his care and treatment of
27 Patient D in that he failed to follow the standard of care for prescribing pain medications to
28 Patient D, including, but not limited to, failing to perform an appropriate physical examination of

1 Patient D, failing to determine and/or confirm all medications prescribed to Patient D to evaluate
2 for potential drug-to-drug interactions, failing to evaluate Patient D's pain level and/or response
3 to pain medications, and/or failing to maintain legible and/or adequate documentation of his
4 medical rationale, before issuing Patient D's prescriptions for pain medications.

5 **Patient E**

6 129. Paragraphs 59 through 69, and 111 through 113, above, are hereby incorporated by
7 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

8 130. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts throughout his care and treatment of
9 Patient E in that he failed to follow the standard of care for prescribing pain medications to
10 Patient E, including, but not limited to, failing to perform an appropriate physical examination of
11 Patient E, failing to determine and/or confirm all medications prescribed to Patient E to evaluate
12 for potential drug-to-drug interactions, failing to evaluate Patient E's pain level and/or response to
13 pain medications, and/or failing to maintain legible and/or adequate documentation of his medical
14 rationale, before issuing Patient E's prescriptions for pain medications.

15 **Patient F**

16 131. Paragraphs 70 through 81, and 114 through 116, above, are hereby incorporated by
17 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

18 132. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts throughout his care and treatment of
19 Patient F in that he failed to follow the standard of care for prescribing pain medications to
20 Patient F, including, but not limited to, failing to perform an appropriate physical examination of
21 Patient F, failing to determine and/or confirm all medications prescribed to Patient F to evaluate
22 for potential drug-to-drug interactions, failing to evaluate Patient F's pain level and/or response to
23 pain medications, and/or failing to maintain legible and/or adequate documentation of his medical
24 rationale, before issuing Patient F's prescriptions for pain medications.

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1 **Patient G**

2 133. Paragraphs 82 through 89, and 117 through 119, above, are hereby incorporated by
3 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

4 134. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts throughout his care and treatment of
5 Patient G in that he failed to follow the standard of care for prescribing pain medications to
6 Patient G, including, but not limited to, failing to perform an appropriate physical examination of
7 Patient G, failing to determine and/or confirm all medications prescribed to Patient G to evaluate
8 for potential drug-to-drug interactions, failing to evaluate Patient G's pain level and/or response
9 to pain medications, and/or failing to maintain legible and/or adequate documentation of his
10 medical rationale, before issuing Patient G's prescriptions for pain medications.

11 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

12 **(Failure to Maintain Adequate and/or Accurate Records)**

13 135. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G
14 55823 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2266, of the
15 Code, in that Respondent failed to maintain adequate and/or accurate records regarding his care
16 and treatment of Patients A, B, C, D, E, F and G, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 26
17 through 134, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth
18 herein.

19 **PRAYER**

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

22 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 55823, issued
23 to Respondent Andres Betts, M.D.;

24 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Andres Betts, M.D.'s
25 authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

26 3. Ordering Respondent Andres Betts, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the
27 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of
28 probation monitoring; and

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

2 DATED: MAR 14 2025

3 REJI VARGHESE
4 Executive Director
5 Medical Board of California
6 Department of Consumer Affairs
7 State of California
8 *Complainant*

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