

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

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

Romeo N. Rodriguez, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 31849**

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2022-086118

DECISION

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

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED May 29, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

 *for*

**Reji Varghese
Executive Director**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 KAROLYN M. WESTFALL
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 234540
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
5 San Diego, CA 92101
P.O. Box 85266
6 San Diego, CA 92186-5266
Telephone: (619) 738-9465
7 Facsimile: (916) 732-7920
E-mail: Karolyn.Westfall@doj.ca.gov

8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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10 **BEFORE THE**
11 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
13 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

14 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2022-086118

15 **ROMEO N. RODRIGUEZ, M.D.**
29151 Willowwood Ln.
Highland, CA 92346-5403

**DEFAULT DECISION
AND ORDER**

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.**
17 **A 31849**

[Gov. Code, §11520]

18 Respondent.

19
20 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

21 1. On or about April 4, 2025, Complainant Reji Varghese, in his official capacity as the
22 Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, filed
23 Accusation No. 800-2022-086118 against Romeo N. Rodriguez, M.D. (Respondent) before the
24 Medical Board of California.

25 2. On or about December 9, 1977, the Medical Board of California (Board) issued
26 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 31849 to Respondent. The Physician's and
27 Surgeon's Certificate expired on May 31, 2023, and has not been renewed. A true and

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1 correct copy of the Certificate of Licensure is attached as Exhibit A to the accompanying Default
2 Decision Evidence Packet.¹

3 3. On or about October 14, 2022, pursuant to a stipulation, an Interim Suspension Order
4 was issued by the Office of Administrative Hearings, immediately suspending Physician's and
5 Surgeon's Certificate No. A 31849, and prohibiting Respondent from practicing medicine in the
6 State of California. As a result, Respondent remains suspended from the practice of medicine
7 pending the issuance of a final decision on the Accusation. (Exhibit B, Interim Suspension
8 Order.)

9 4. On or about April 4, 2025, Samuel Guardado, an employee of the Board, served by
10 Certified Mail a copy of Accusation No. 800-2022-086118; Statement to Respondent; Notice of
11 Defense; Request for Discovery; and Discovery Statutes to Respondent's address of record with
12 the Board, which was and is: 29151 Willowwood Ln., Highland, CA 92346-5403. (Exhibit C,
13 Accusation, related documents, and declaration of service.)

14 5. Service of the Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of
15 Government Code section 11505, subdivision (c).

16 6. On or about March 25, 2025, Deputy Attorney General Karolyn M. Westfall (DAG
17 Westfall) received a call from Respondent's attorney, Gregory H. Kassel, Esq. Mr. Kassel
18 acknowledged Respondent's receipt of the Accusation and indicated that Respondent would not
19 be filing a Notice of Defense, and that he has no objection to the Board proceeding by default.
20 (Exhibit D, Declaration of DAG Westfall, ¶ 8.)

21 7. On or about April 21, 2025, having not yet received the Notice of Defense, Deputy
22 Attorney General Karolyn M. Westfall prepared a Courtesy Notice of Default, informing
23 Respondent that his failure to file a Notice of Defense within 14 calendar days of the notice
24 would result in the Board proceeding with a Default Decision against his license. The Courtesy
25 Notice of Default along with the Accusation, the related documents, and declaration of service
26 ///

27 ¹ All exhibits are true and correct copies of the originals and are attached to the
28 accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet. The Default Decision Evidence Packet is
hereby incorporated by reference, in its entirety, as if fully set forth herein.

1 was mailed by regular mail to Respondent's attorney, Mr. Kassel, and to Respondent at his
2 address of record with the Board. (Exhibit D ¶ 9.)

3 8. Government Code section 11506 states, in pertinent part:

4 (c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent
5 files a notice of defense, and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all parts
6 of the accusation not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense shall
constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its discretion
may nevertheless grant a hearing.

7 9. To date, Respondent has not filed a Notice of Defense. (Exhibit D, ¶ 10.)

8 10. Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon him
9 of the Accusation, and therefore waived his right to a hearing on the merits of Accusation No.
10 800-2022-086118.

11 11. California Government Code section 11520 states, in pertinent part:

12 (a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the
13 hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions
14 or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to
respondent.

15 12. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Board finds
16 Respondent is in default. The Board will take action without further hearing and, based on
17 Respondent's express admissions by way of default and the evidence before it, contained in
18 Exhibits A, B, C, and D, finds that the allegations in Accusation No. 800-2022-086118 are true
19 and correct.

20 13. Section 118 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

21 ...

22 (b) The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license
23 issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by
24 order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written
25 consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed,
26 restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or
continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by
law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking
disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground.

27 (c) As used in this section, "board" includes an individual who is authorized by
28 any provision of this code to issue, suspend, or revoke a license, and "license"
includes "certificate," "registration," and "permit."

1 14. Section 2427 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

2 (a) Except as provided in Section 2429, a license which has expired may be
3 renewed at any time within five years after its expiration on filing an application for
4 renewal on a form prescribed by the licensing authority and payment of all accrued
5 renewal fees and any other fees required by Section 2424...

6 15. Section 822 of the Code states:

7 If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her
8 profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill
9 affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the
10 following methods:

11 (a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.

12 (b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.

13 (c) Placing the licentiate on probation.

14 (d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency
15 in its discretion deems proper.

16 The licensing section shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or license until it
17 has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the condition which caused its
18 action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the public health and safety the person's
19 right to practice his or her profession may be safely reinstated.

20 16. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 31849 to
21 action under section 822 of the Code, in that his ability to practice medicine safely is impaired
22 due to a mental illness and/or physical illness affecting competency, as more particularly alleged
23 hereinafter:

24 a) In or around 2022, Respondent was diagnosed with a permanent medical disorder
25 affecting his cognitive ability. (Exhibit D, ¶ 7.)

26 b) On or about October 4, 2022, Respondent admitted that he is unable to practice
27 medicine safely due to a mental or physical condition. (Exhibit B.)

28 c) In or around 2024, Respondent's treating physicians determined that he cannot
comprehend or make decisions for himself and needs assistance with activities of
daily living. (Exhibit D, ¶ 7.)

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1 **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

2 1. Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent Romeo N. Rodriguez, M.D., has
3 subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 31849 to action.

4 2. A copy of the Accusation and the related documents and Declaration of Service are
5 attached as Exhibit B in the accompanying Default Decision Evidence Packet.

6 3. The Board has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.

7 4. The Medical Board of California is authorized to revoke Respondent's Physician's
8 and Surgeon's Certificate because Respondent's ability to practice medicine safely is impaired
9 due to a mental illness and/or physical illness affecting competency.


10 **ORDER**

11 IT IS SO ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 31849, heretofore
12 issued to Respondent Romeo N. Rodriguez, M.D., is revoked.

13 Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdivision (c), Respondent may serve a
14 written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within
15 seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Respondent. The Board in its discretion may
16 vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute.

17 This Decision shall become effective on June 9, 2025.

18 It is so ORDERED May 29, 2025

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20 
21 _____
22 REJI VARGHESE
23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
24 FOR THE MEDICAL BOARD OF
25 CALIFORNIA
26 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 KAROLYN M. WESTFALL
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 234540
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
5 San Diego, CA 92101
P.O. Box 85266
6 San Diego, CA 92186-5266
Telephone: (619) 738-9465
7 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061
E-mail: Karolyn.Westfall@doj.ca.gov

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9 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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11 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2022-086118

14 **ROMEO N. RODRIGUEZ, M.D.**
29151 Willowood Ln.
15 Highland, CA 92346-5403

A C C U S A T I O N

16 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
A 31849

17 Respondent.
18

19
20 **PARTIES**

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

24 2. On or about December 9, 1977, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
25 Certificate No. A 31849 to Romeo N. Rodriguez, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
26 Surgeon's Certificate expired on May 31, 2023, and has not been renewed.

27 ///

28 ///

3. On or about October 14, 2022, an Interim Suspension Order was issued by the Office of Administrative Hearings, immediately suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 31849 and prohibiting Respondent from practicing medicine in the State of California. As a result, Respondent remains suspended from the practice of medicine pending the issuance of a final decision after an administrative hearing on the Accusation.

JURISDICTION

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

5. Section 2227 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

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

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

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

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

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

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

• • •

6. Section 118 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

...

(b) The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground.

1 (c) As used in this section, "board" includes an individual who is authorized by
2 any provision of this code to issue, suspend, or revoke a license, and "license"
3 includes "certificate," "registration," and "permit."

4 7. Section 2427 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

5 (a) Except as provided in Section 2429, a license which has expired may be
6 renewed at any time within five years after its expiration on filing an application for
7 renewal on a form prescribed by the licensing authority and payment of all accrued
8 renewal fees and any other fees required by Section 2424...

9 8. Section 822 of the Code states:

10 If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her
11 profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill
12 affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the
13 following methods:

14 (a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.

15 (b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.

16 (c) Placing the licentiate on probation.

17 (d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency
18 in its discretion deems proper.

19 The licensing section shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or
20 license until it has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the
21 condition which caused its action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the
22 public health and safety the person's right to practice his or her profession may be
23 safely reinstated.

24 CAUSE FOR ACTION

25 (Mental Illness and/or Physical Illness Affecting Competency)

26 9. Respondent is subject to action under section 822 of the Code, in that his ability to
27 practice medicine safely is impaired due to a mental illness and/or physical illness affecting
28 competency, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

10 10. In or around 2022, Respondent was diagnosed with a permanent medical disorder
11 affecting his cognitive ability.

12 11. On or about October 4, 2022, Respondent admitted that he is unable to practice
13 medicine safely due to a mental or physical condition.

14 12. In or around 2024, Respondent's treating physicians determined that he cannot
15 comprehend or make decisions for himself and needs assistance with activities of daily living.

1 PRAYER

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

- 4 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 31849, issued
5 to Respondent, Romeo N. Rodriguez, M.D.;
- 6 2. Taking action as authorized by section 822 of the Code as the Board, in its discretion,
7 deems necessary and proper;
- 8 3. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Romeo N. Rodriguez,
9 M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 10 4. Ordering Respondent Romeo N. Rodriguez, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay to
11 the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
- 12 5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

13
14 DATED: APR 04 2025

15 
16 REJI VARGHESE
17 Executive Director
18 Medical Board of California
19 Department of Consumer Affairs
20 State of California
21 Complainant

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