

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

John Joseph Champlin, M.D.

**Physician's & Surgeon's
Certificate No. G 53113**

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2021-083141

DECISION

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

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on August 8, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED: July 9, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Michelle A. Bholat, MD

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

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 STEVE DIEHL
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 KALEV KASEORU
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 331645
1300 I Street, Suite 125
5 P.O. Box 944255
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Attorneys for Complainant

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

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

12 **JOHN JOSEPH CHAMPLIN, M.D.**
13 **6600 Madison Ave. Suite 7**
14 **Carmichael, CA 95608-0645**

15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
No. G 53113

16 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2021-083141

OAH No. 2024110650

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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19 In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with the public
20 interest and the responsibility of the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer
21 Affairs, the parties hereby agree to the following Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order
22 which will be submitted to the Board for approval and adoption as the final disposition of the
23 Accusation.

24 **PARTIES**

25 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
26 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
27 matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Kalev Kaseoru, Deputy
28 Attorney General.

2. Respondent John Joseph Champlin, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Dominique A. Pollara, whose address is: 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 165N Sacramento, CA 95825-8202.

3. On or about July 23, 1984, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 53113 to John Joseph Champlin, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2021-083141, and will expire on November 30, 2025, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2021-083141 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on August 14, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2021-083141 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2021-083141. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with his counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

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

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1 **CULPABILITY**

2 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation
3 No. 800-2021-083141, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his
4 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

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

8 11. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could
9 establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-
10 2021-083141, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and that he has
11 thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate, No. G 53113 to disciplinary action.

12 12. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to
13 discipline and agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the
14 Disciplinary Order below.

15 **CONTINGENCY**

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

26 14. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to
27 be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the
28 agreement of the parties in this above entitled matter.

15. Respondent agrees that if an Accusation is filed against him before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2021-083141 shall be deemed true and correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

16. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

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

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

A. PUBLIC REPRIMAND

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 53113 issued to Respondent John Joseph Champlin, M.D., shall be and is hereby publicly reprimanded pursuant to California Business and Professions Code, section 2227, subdivision (a) (4). This public reprimand, which is issued in connection Respondent's care and treatment of Patients A, B, and C, as set forth in Accusation No. 800-2021-083141, is as follows:

Respondent committed acts constituting negligence in violation of Business and Professions Code section 2234, subdivision (c), in his care and treatment of Patients A, B, and C, as set forth in Accusation No. 800-2021-083141, specifically, but not limited to the following: Respondent failed to monitor Patient A for alcohol use after their discharge from an alcohol detoxification program, and failed to complete accurate and timely entries in Patient A's medical records; Respondent failed to adhere to his own urine/toxicology regimen with Patient B as well as failing to address high blood alcohol levels on Patient B's urine/toxicology results; and, Respondent failed to adhere to his own urine/toxicology regimen with Patient C as well as failing to discuss Patient C's repeated high blood pressure readings on multiple visits.

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1 **B. PRESCRIBING PRACTICES COURSE**

2 Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a
3 course in prescribing practices approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent
4 shall provide the approved course provider with any information and documents that the approved
5 course provider may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete
6 the classroom component of the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial
7 enrollment. Respondent shall successfully complete any other component of the course within
8 one (1) year of enrollment. The prescribing practices course shall be at Respondent's expense
9 and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of
10 licensure.

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

16 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
17 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
18 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

19 **C. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE**

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

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

6 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
7 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
8 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

9 **D. INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY**

10 Respondent is hereby ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and
11 enforcement, including, but not limited to, expert review, legal reviews, and investigation and
12 other costs, in the amount of \$27,210.40 (Twenty-seven thousand, two hundred and ten dollars
13 and forty cents). Costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California. Failure to pay such
14 costs shall be considered unprofessional conduct and may serve as the grounds for further
15 disciplinary action.

16 Payment must be made in full within 365 calendar days of the effective date of the Order,
17 or by a payment plan approved by the Medical Board of California. Any and all requests for a
18 payment plan shall be submitted in writing by Respondent to the Board. Failure to comply with
19 the payment plan shall be considered unprofessional conduct and may serve as the grounds for
20 further disciplinary action.

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

23 **E. FAILURE TO COMPLY**

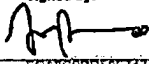
24 If Respondent fails to enroll in, participate in, or successfully complete the educational
25 program(s) and/or course(s), and/or complete the term(s) and condition(s) as described in
26 conditions B, C, and D, within the designated time period as set forth in the Decision and Order,
27 Respondent shall receive and comply with a notification from the Board or its designee to cease
28 the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall

not resume the practice of medicine until enrollment or participation or fulfillment in the educational program(s) and/or course(s), and/or completion of the term(s) and condition(s) has been provided to the Board as required by the express language of the Decision and Order. In addition, failure to successfully complete the educational program(s) and/or course(s), and/or complete the term(s) and condition(s) outlined above shall also constitute separate grounds for general unprofessional conduct and will be grounds for further immediate disciplinary action against Respondent's license.

ACCEPTANCE

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

DATED: 6/5/2025

Signed by:


JOHN JOSEPH CHAMPLIN, M.D.
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent John Joseph Champlin, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 6/5/25


DOMINIQUE A. POLLARA, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

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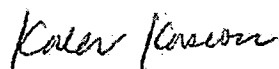
ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: June 5, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
STEVE DIEHL
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



KALEV KASEORU
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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39054177

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2021-083141

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
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Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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9
10 **BEFORE THE**
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
12

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2021-083141

14 **JOHN JOSEPH CHAMPLIN, M.D.**
6600 Madison Ave. Suite 7
15 Carmichael, CA 95608-0645

A C C U S A T I O N

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
17 **No. G 53113,**

Respondent.
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21 **PARTIES**

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

25 2. On or about July 23, 1984, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
26 Certificate No. G 53113 to John Joseph Champlin, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
27 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
28 herein and will expire on November 30, 2025, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

3. 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.

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

5. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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

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

"(b) Gross negligence.

"(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.

"(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.

"(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

"(d) Incompetence.

“(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

“(f) Any action or conduct that would have warranted the denial of a certificate.

“(g) The failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend and participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board.”

6. Unprofessional conduct under Business and Professions Code section 2234 is conduct which breaches the rules or ethical conduct of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming to a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine. (*Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners* (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.)

7. 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

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

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9. On or about November 8, 2021, the Board's Central Complaint Unit (CCU) received a complaint from the family of Patient A against Respondent alleging that he prescribed controlled medications to her knowing she was an addict.

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1 10. In the course of the investigation, the CCU Medical Consultant identified additional
2 patients of Respondent whose prescribing practices were reviewed for quality of care. Ultimately,
3 Respondent's care and treatment of Patient A¹, Patient B, and Patient C, were reviewed.

4 **Patient A**

5 11. Patient A died at the age of fifty on March 19, 2019. The cause of her death was
6 noted as multiple drug overdose. Respondent began treating Patient A in 2010 for pain
7 management arising after surgery. Respondent prescribed opioids², benzodiazepines³, and other
8 drugs to Patient A from 2010 until her death in 2019.

9 12. On or about October of 2018, Patient A entered into an in-patient residential alcohol
10 detoxification program which Respondent was aware of. Prior to her enrollment Respondent
11 discontinued her prescription for Norco.

12 13. Prior to her October 2018 enrollment in the alcohol detoxification program
13 Respondent's medical records for Patient A show no urine or toxicology screens in which
14 Respondent tested Patient A for alcohol.

15 14. In November of 2018, after Patient A completed the alcohol detoxification program,
16 Respondent resumed prescribing opioids to Patient A. Respondent first prescribed Butrans⁴, but
17 then switched back to prescribing Norco to Patient A after she reported that her insurance would
18 not cover a Butrans prescription. Respondent's records for Patient A do not indicate that he
19 ordered or performed urine and/or toxicology screens to monitor Patient A for alcohol abuse after
20 her completion of the alcohol detoxification program.

21 15. From 2014 through August of 2017, Respondent's patient records note the same entry
22 for a mass on Patient A's breast. During this period there are some records of visits where this
23 information is present in the record and then not recorded in a subsequent visit. The records do

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25 ¹ Patient names have been redacted to protect patient privacy. They are known to
Respondent and will be provided in discovery.

26 ² Respondent prescribed Norco which is an opioid controlled medication that is a
combination of hydrocodone and acetaminophen. It is used to treat moderate to severe pain.

27 ³ Respondent prescribed Xanax which is also known as Alprazolam and is a controlled
medication used to treat anxiety and panic disorders.

28 ⁴ Butrans is buprenorphine, an opioid analgesic controlled medication used to treat severe
ongoing pain.

1 not reflect that Respondent ever discussed or addressed the mass with Patient A. After August of
2 2017, Respondent's records for Patient A never record another entry regarding the mass or any
3 lump in her breast.

4 16. Respondent recorded Patient A as being "low risk" for the abuse of opioids. Patient
5 A's records contain no documentation of a risk assessment or discussion with Patient A about
6 opioid abuse.

7 **Patient B**

8 17. Patient B was a 57-year old man whose medical care was assumed by Respondent
9 after Patient B's provider retired in 2013. Patient B was previously diagnosed with Attention
10 Deficit Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, and many other ailments including cancer, kidney disease and
11 hypertension. When Respondent assumed care of Patient B, Patient B was already being
12 prescribed alprazolam⁵ and Adderall⁶, both controlled substances, and Respondent continued
13 these prescriptions along with other medications.

14 18. During Respondent's treatment of Patient B, Respondent failed to adhere to his own
15 urine/toxicology regimen of two tests per year. Specifically, in 2017, 2019, and 2020, Respondent
16 only completed one urine/toxicology screen for Patient B.

17 **Patient C**

18 19. Patient C was a sixty-three-year old male when Respondent began treating Patient C
19 in 2017 for pain stemming from a back injury. Respondent prescribed opioids to Patient C.

20 20. During Respondent's treatment of Patient C, Respondent failed to adhere to his own
21 urine/toxicology regimen of at least two tests per year. Specifically, in 2017, 2018, 2020, and
22 2021, Respondent only completed one urine/toxicology screen for Patient C.

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27 ⁵ Alprazolam is a benzodiazepine which is generally used to treat anxiety and panic
disorders.

28 ⁶ Adderall is a controlled medication consisting of mixed amphetamine salts. It is
generally used to treat ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).

21. Respondent failed to address Patient C's urine/toxicology screens that recorded high alcohol values while Patient C was taking Diazepam⁷ and morphine sulfate⁸.

22. In various medical appointments from 2018 through 2022, Patient C exhibited high blood pressure readings⁹ which Respondent failed to discuss with Patient C.

23. Respondent documented the exact same physical exam entry in Patient C's medical record repeatedly for various visits in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

24. Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 53113 is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 725 and 2234, subdivision (c), in that he committed repeated negligent acts during the care and treatment of Patients A, B, and C as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 23 above, and those paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

25. Specifically, Respondent committed negligence in his care of Patient A, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A. Respondent failed to monitor Patient A for alcohol abuse after her discharge from an alcohol detoxification program;

B. Respondent failed to address the mass in Patient's A breast with Patient A;

C. Respondent failed to discuss the risks of opioid abuse with Patient A despite prescribing her opioids for a prolonged period;

D. Respondent failed to complete accurate and timely entries in Patient A's medical records.

26. Specifically, Respondent committed negligence in his care of Patient B, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

⁷ Diazepam is a controlled medication (commonly known as valium) of the benzodiazepine family of drugs. It is used to treat anxiety, alcohol withdrawal, seizures, muscle spasms, and insomnia.

⁸ Morphine sulfate is an opioid analgesic controlled medication used to treat moderate to severe pain.

⁹ Readings greater than 130/80.

PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 53113, issued to Respondent John Joseph Champlin, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent John Joseph Champlin, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Respondent John Joseph Champlin, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and
- 4.. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: AUG 14 2024


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

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