

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

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 135467

Case No.: 800-2024-106512

Respondent.

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement 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 22, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED: July 23, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Michelle A. Bholat, MD

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

1 ROB BONTA
2 Attorney General of California
3 STEVE DIEHL
4 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
5 SARAH J. JACOBS
6 Deputy Attorney General
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13 *Attorneys for Complainant*

11 | In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2024-106512

12 PRAVACHAN V C HEGDE, M.D.
11121 North Valley Drive
13 Fresno, CA 93730

OAH No. 2025010403

14 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A
135467

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER

Respondent.

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.

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 Sarah J. Jacobs, Deputy
28 Attorney General.

1 2. Respondent Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
2 proceeding by attorney Nathan Mubasher, Esq., whose address is: 8583 Irvine Center Drive,
3 #422, Irvine, CA 92618.

4 3. On or about April 8, 2015, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
5 No. A 135467 to Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's
6 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation
7 No. 800-2024-106512, and will expire on January 31, 2027, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

9 4. Accusation No. 800-2024-106512 was filed before the Board, and is currently
10 pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were
11 properly served on Respondent on December 24, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of
12 Defense contesting the Accusation.

13 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2024-106512 is attached as Exhibit A and
14 incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

16 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
17 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2024-106512. Respondent has also carefully read,
18 fully discussed with his counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and
19 Disciplinary Order.

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

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

28 | //

CULPABILITY

9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2024-106512, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

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

11. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2024-106512, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate, No. A 135467 to disciplinary action.

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

CONTINGENCY

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

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

1 15. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of
2 probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the
3 Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2024-106512 shall be
4 deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or
5 any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

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

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

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

13 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 135467
14 issued to Respondent PRAVACHAN V C HEGDE, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is
15 stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and
16 conditions:

17 1. ALCOHOL - ABSTAIN FROM USE. Respondent shall abstain completely from the
18 use of products or beverages containing alcohol.

19 2. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of
20 the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that
21 meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1.
22 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall
23 provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall
24 successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after
25 Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the
26 time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom
27 component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in
28 addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

1 A professionalism program 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 program would have
4 been approved by the Board or its designee had the program 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 program or not later
8 than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

9 3. NOTICE OF EMPLOYER OR SUPERVISOR INFORMATION. Within seven (7)
10 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall provide to the Board the names,
11 physical addresses, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers of any and all employers and
12 supervisors. Respondent shall also provide specific, written consent for the Board, Respondent's
13 worksite monitor, and Respondent's employers and supervisors to communicate regarding
14 Respondent's work status, performance, and monitoring.

15 For purposes of this section, "supervisors" shall include the Chief of Staff and Health or
16 Well Being Committee Chair, or equivalent, if applicable, when the Respondent has medical staff
17 privileges.

18 4. BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING. Respondent shall immediately submit to
19 biological fluid testing, at Respondent's expense, upon request of the Board or its designee.
20 "Biological fluid testing" may include, but is not limited to, urine, blood, breathalyzer, hair
21 follicle testing, or similar drug screening approved by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall
22 make daily contact with the Board or its designee to determine whether biological fluid testing is
23 required. Respondent shall be tested on the date of the notification as directed by the Board or its
24 designee. The Board may order a Respondent to undergo a biological fluid test on any day, at
25 any time, including weekends and holidays. Except when testing on a specific date as ordered by
26 the Board or its designee, the scheduling of biological fluid testing shall be done on a random
27 basis. The cost of biological fluid testing shall be borne by the Respondent.

28 During the first year of probation, Respondent shall be subject to 52 to 104 random tests.

1 During the second year of probation and for the duration of the probationary term, up to five (5)
2 years, Respondent shall be subject to 36 to 104 random tests per year. Only if there has been no
3 positive biological fluid tests in the previous five (5) consecutive years of probation, may testing
4 be reduced to one (1) time per month. Nothing precludes the Board from increasing the number
5 of random tests to the first-year level of frequency for any reason.

6 Prior to practicing medicine, Respondent shall contract with a laboratory or service,
7 approved in advance by the Board or its designee, that will conduct random, unannounced,
8 observed, biological fluid testing and meets all of the following standards:

- 9 (a) Its specimen collectors are either certified by the Drug and Alcohol Testing Industry
10 Association or have completed the training required to serve as a collector for the United
11 States Department of Transportation.
- 12 (b) Its specimen collectors conform to the current United States Department of
13 Transportation Specimen Collection Guidelines.
- 14 (c) Its testing locations comply with the Urine Specimen Collection Guidelines published
15 by the United States Department of Transportation without regard to the type of test
16 administered.
- 17 (d) Its specimen collectors observe the collection of testing specimens.
- 18 (e) Its laboratories are certified and accredited by the United States Department of Health
19 and Human Services.
- 20 (f) Its testing locations shall submit a specimen to a laboratory within one (1) business day
21 of receipt and all specimens collected shall be handled pursuant to chain of custody
22 procedures. The laboratory shall process and analyze the specimens and provide legally
23 defensible test results to the Board within seven (7) business days of receipt of the
24 specimen. The Board will be notified of non-negative results within one (1) business day
25 and will be notified of negative test results within seven (7) business days.
- 26 (g) Its testing locations possess all the materials, equipment, and technical expertise
27 necessary in order to test Respondent on any day of the week.
- 28 (h) Its testing locations are able to scientifically test for urine, blood, and hair specimens

1 for the detection of alcohol and illegal and controlled substances.

2 (i) It maintains testing sites located throughout California.

3 (j) It maintains an automated 24-hour toll-free telephone system and/or a secure on-line
4 computer database that allows the Respondent to check in daily for testing.

5 (k) It maintains a secure, HIPAA-compliant website or computer system that allows staff
6 access to drug test results and compliance reporting information that is available 24 hours a
7 day.

8 (l) It employs or contracts with toxicologists that are licensed physicians and have
9 knowledge of substance abuse disorders and the appropriate medical training to interpret
10 and evaluate laboratory biological fluid test results, medical histories, and any other
11 information relevant to biomedical information.

12 (m) It will not consider a toxicology screen to be negative if a positive result is obtained
13 while practicing, even if the Respondent holds a valid prescription for the substance.

14 Prior to changing testing locations for any reason, including during vacation or other travel,
15 alternative testing locations must be approved by the Board and meet the requirements above.

16 The contract shall require that the laboratory directly notify the Board or its designee of
17 non-negative results within one (1) business day and negative test results within seven (7)
18 business days of the results becoming available. Respondent shall maintain this laboratory or
19 service contract during the period of probation.

20 A certified copy of any laboratory test result may be received in evidence in any
21 proceedings between the Board and Respondent.

22 If a biological fluid test result indicates Respondent has used, consumed, ingested, or
23 administered to himself or herself a prohibited substance, the Board shall order Respondent to
24 cease practice and instruct Respondent to leave any place of work where Respondent is practicing
25 medicine or providing medical services. The Board shall immediately notify all of Respondent's
26 employers, supervisors and work monitors, if any, that Respondent may not practice medicine or
27 provide medical services while the cease-practice order is in effect.

28 A biological fluid test will not be considered negative if a positive result is obtained while

1 practicing, even if the practitioner holds a valid prescription for the substance. If no prohibited
2 substance use exists, the Board shall lift the cease-practice order within one (1) business day.

3 After the issuance of a cease-practice order, the Board shall determine whether the positive
4 biological fluid test is in fact evidence of prohibited substance use by consulting with the
5 specimen collector and the laboratory, communicating with the licensee, his or her treating
6 physician(s), other health care provider, or group facilitator, as applicable.

7 For purposes of this condition, the terms "biological fluid testing" and "testing" mean the
8 acquisition and chemical analysis of a Respondent's urine, blood, breath, or hair.

9 For purposes of this condition, the term "prohibited substance" means an illegal drug, a
10 lawful drug not prescribed or ordered by an appropriately licensed health care provider for use by
11 Respondent and approved by the Board, alcohol, or any other substance the Respondent has been
12 instructed by the Board not to use, consume, ingest, or administer to himself or herself.

13 If the Board confirms that a positive biological fluid test is evidence of use of a prohibited
14 substance, Respondent has committed a major violation, as defined in section 1361.52(a), and the
15 Board shall impose any or all of the consequences set forth in section 1361.52(b), in addition to
16 any other terms or conditions the Board determines are necessary for public protection or to
17 enhance Respondent's rehabilitation.

18 Notwithstanding the provisions above, Respondent's period of documented travel outside
19 the United States related to the funeral of his father will relieve Respondent of the responsibility
20 to comply with the requirement of biological fluid testing. Respondent shall notify the Board or
21 its designee in writing prior to the anticipated travel outside the United States.

22 Respondent's total time period of relief from biological fluid testing during funeral-related
23 travel outside the United States shall not exceed forty-five days.

24 Within five days of Respondent's return to the United States following funeral-related
25 travel outside the United States, Respondent shall submit to a blood and/or hair test. Respondent
26 shall not practice medicine after returning from travel outside the United States until he is notified
27 in writing by the Board. This testing shall be subject to all the requirements of biological fluid
28 testing set forth above.

1 5. SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. Within thirty (30) days of
2 the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee, for its
3 prior approval, the name of a substance abuse support group which he or she shall attend for the
4 duration of probation. Respondent shall attend substance abuse support group meetings at least
5 once per month, or as ordered by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall pay all substance
6 abuse support group meeting costs.

7 The facilitator of the substance abuse support group meeting shall have a minimum of three
8 (3) years experience in the treatment and rehabilitation of substance abuse, and shall be licensed
9 or certified by the state or nationally certified organizations. The facilitator shall not have a
10 current or former financial, personal, or business relationship with Respondent within the last five
11 (5) years. Respondent's previous participation in a substance abuse group support meeting led by
12 the same facilitator does not constitute a prohibited current or former financial, personal, or
13 business relationship.

14 The facilitator shall provide a signed document to the Board or its designee showing
15 Respondent's name, the group name, the date and location of the meeting, Respondent's
16 attendance, and Respondent's level of participation and progress. The facilitator shall report any
17 unexcused absence by Respondent from any substance abuse support group meeting to the Board,
18 or its designee, within twenty-four (24) hours of the unexcused absence.

19 6. VIOLATION OF PROBATION CONDITION FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSING
20 LICENSEES. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of
21 probation.

22 A. If Respondent commits a major violation of probation as defined by section
23 1361.52, subdivision (a), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board shall take
24 one or more of the following actions:

25 (1) Issue an immediate cease-practice order and order Respondent to undergo a clinical
26 diagnostic evaluation to be conducted in accordance with section 1361.5, subdivision (c)(1), of
27 Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, at Respondent's expense. The cease-practice
28 order issued by the Board or its designee shall state that Respondent must test negative for at least

1 a month of continuous biological fluid testing before being allowed to resume practice. For
2 purposes of determining the length of time a Respondent must test negative while undergoing
3 continuous biological fluid testing following issuance of a cease-practice order, a month is
4 defined as thirty calendar (30) days. Respondent may not resume the practice of medicine until
5 notified in writing by the Board or its designee that he or she may do so.

6 (2) Increase the frequency of biological fluid testing.

7 (3) Refer Respondent for further disciplinary action, such as suspension, revocation, or
8 other action as determined by the Board or its designee.

9 B. If Respondent commits a minor violation of probation as defined by section
10 1361.52, subdivision (c), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board shall take
11 one or more of the following actions:

12 (1) Issue a cease-practice order;

13 (2) Order practice limitations;

14 (3) Order or increase supervision of Respondent;

15 (4) Order increased documentation;

16 (5) Issue a citation and fine, or a warning letter;

17 (6) Order Respondent to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation to be conducted in
18 accordance with section 1361.5, subdivision (c)(1), of Title 16 of the California Code of
19 Regulations, at Respondent's expense;

20 (7) Take any other action as determined by the Board or its designee.

21 C. Nothing in this Decision shall be considered a limitation on the Board's authority
22 to revoke Respondent's probation if he or she has violated any term or condition of probation. If
23 Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the
24 opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was
25 stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed
26 against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter
27 is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

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

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

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

13 9. INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY. Respondent is hereby
14 ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement, including, but not
15 limited to, expert review, amended accusations, legal reviews, investigation(s), and subpoena
16 enforcement, as applicable, in the amount of \$27,044.50 (twenty-seven thousand forty-four
17 dollars and fifty cents). Costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California. Failure to pay
18 such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

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

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

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

28 ///

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

3 11. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

4 Compliance with Probation Unit

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

6 Address Changes

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

12 Place of Practice

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

16 License Renewal

17 Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's
18 license.

19 Travel or Residence Outside California

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 14. COMPLETION OF PROBATION. Respondent shall comply with all financial
28 obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the

1 completion of probation. This term does not include cost recovery, which is due within 30
2 calendar days of the effective date of the Order, or by a payment plan approved by the Medical
3 Board and timely satisfied. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate
4 shall be fully restored.

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

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

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

27 18. FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for
28 a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care

1 licensing action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in
2 Accusation No. 800-2024-106512 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by
3 Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or
4 restrict license.

5 **ACCEPTANCE**

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

11
12 *PRAVACHAN HEGDE*

13 DATED: 05/09/2025

14 PRAVACHAN V C HEGDE, M.D.
Respondent

15 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D. the terms and
16 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
17 I approve its form and content.

18
19 DATED: 05/09/2025

20 *Nathan Mubasher*
21 NATHAN MUBASHER, 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: 5/9/2025

Respectfully submitted,

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

Seafire

SARAH J. JACOBS
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

FR2024304946/

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2024-106512

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13 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D.
11121 North Valley Drive
Fresno, CA 93730

ACCUSATION

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. A 135467,

Respondent.

PARTIES

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

2. On or about April 8, 2015, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
3 Certificate Number A 135467 to Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
4 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
5 herein and will expire on January 31, 2027, unless renewed.

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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 unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 2227 of the Code provides 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 requires the Board to take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct.

10 6. Section 2236 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

[11] . . . [11]

17 7. Section 2239 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

23 (b) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section. . . .

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

25 8. Section 23152, subdivision (b), of the Vehicle Code states:

(b) It is unlawful for a person who has 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a vehicle.

28 9. Section 23578 of the Vehicle Code states:

1 In addition to any other provision of this code, if a person is convicted of a
2 violation of Section 23152 or 23153, the court shall consider a concentration of
3 alcohol in the person's blood of 0.15 percent or more, by weight, or the refusal of the
person to take a breath or urine test, as a special factor that may justify enhancing the
penalties in sentencing, in determining whether to grant probation, and, if probation is
granted, in determining additional or enhanced terms and conditions of probation.

4 **COST RECOVERY**

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

11 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

12 11. On or about February 27, 2024, at approximately 11:12 p.m., a California Highway
13 Patrol officer was in the process of completing a turn and Respondent's black BMW X7 was
14 traveling at a high rate of speed and failed to stop for a solid red light. Respondent nearly
15 collided with the officer's patrol vehicle and then failed to stop for any posted stop signs. The
16 officer followed Respondent into a gated community. Respondent failed to stop as the officer
17 chased him. Respondent quickly parked inside his garage of his residence and attempted to close
18 the garage door. Respondent clipped the left side of his BMW mirror against the garage wall.
19 The BMW hit a shelf in the garage, knocking it off the wall.

20 12. Officers observed objective signs of intoxication; Respondent's eyes were very red
21 and watery, he had a very strong odor of alcohol, his speech was slurred, and Respondent was
22 unsteady on his feet.

23 13. When officers asked Respondent to follow them to a patrol vehicle for an evaluation,
24 Respondent instead attempted to flee, running towards his house. Officers grabbed Respondent
25 and he began forcibly pushing and pulling away with his hands. Respondent was handcuffed and
26 while walking to a patrol vehicle, Respondent was unable to walk in a straight line and stumbled
27 side to side while the officers guided him.

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1 14. When being placed inside the patrol vehicle Respondent repeatedly asked an officer
2 for his name and the officer repeatedly answered. Respondent then stated, "I am a surgeon.
3 You're fucked!"

4 15. Respondent selected to have a chemical blood test; however, when arriving at the
5 hospital in the patrol vehicle, Respondent resisted and did not want to go inside.

6 16. While waiting for a phlebotomist, Respondent requested the officer to take him home
7 and make the situation go away and then winked at the officer with his right eye. Respondent
8 asked the officer why he was doing this, and the officer responded that driving after drinking was
9 dangerous and that a surgeon of all people should know how dangerous it is. Respondent stated,
10 "It's not dangerous!" While continuing to wait for the phlebotomist Respondent urinated himself.
11 He never asked to use the restroom, nor did he state that he needed to use the restroom.
12 Respondent never mentioned anything, and the officer stated that it was as if Respondent did not
13 notice.

14 17. Respondent's blood alcohol level was .312%.

15 18. While being transferred to the jail Respondent repeatedly cried out that he wanted to
16 go home. Respondent repeatedly stated that he was a doctor. He then whispered to the officer
17 that he would pay the officer to let him go. Respondent said he would give the officer \$1,000 to
18 stop the process, take him home, and let him go; then he winked many more times. During the
19 booking process, Respondent resisted having his photograph taken and had to be held in front of
20 the camera. Two other officers assisted in holding Respondent for the photograph.

21 19. On or about May 14, 2024, criminal charges were filed alleging that Respondent
22 committed: count 1 – driving with a .08% or higher blood alcohol level (Veh. Code, § 23152,
23 subd. (b)); count 2 – driving under the influence and refusal of a chemical test (Veh. Code, §
24 23152, subd. (b)); count 3 – evading an officer (Veh. Code, § 2800.1, subd. (a)); and count 4 –
25 resisting, obstructing, or delaying a police officer (Pen. Code, § 148, subd. (a)(1)). It was further
26 alleged as an enhancement that Respondent had a blood alcohol content of .15% or greater in
27 violation of Vehicle Code, section 23578.

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1 20. On or about September 13, 2024, Respondent entered into a plea agreement and
2 pleaded no contest to count one (Veh. Code, § 23152, subd. (b)), and also admitted the
3 enhancement of driving with a blood alcohol content of .15% or greater (Veh. Code, § 23578).
4 The remaining allegations were dismissed considering the plea.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct: Conviction of a Crime)

7 21. Respondent Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under
8 sections 2234 and 2236 of the Code in that Respondent was convicted of a crime that is
9 substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a physician and surgeon. The
10 circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 11 through 20, above, which are incorporated here by
11 reference.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct: Dangerous Use of Alcohol)

14 22. Respondent Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under
15 sections 2234 and 2239 of the Code in that Respondent used alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or
16 in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or the
17 public. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 11 through 20, above, which are
18 incorporated here by reference.

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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:

4 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 135467,
5 issued to Respondent Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D.;

6 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Pravachan V C Hegde,
7 M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

8 3. Ordering Respondent Pravachan V C Hegde, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the
9 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation
10 monitoring; and

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

13 DATED: DEC 24 2024

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

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