

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

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

**Salvador Plasencia, M.D.**

**Physician's and Surgeon's  
Certificate No. A 146508**

**Respondent.**

**Case No. 800-2024-110906**

**DECISION**

**The attached Stipulated Surrender of License 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 September 18, 2025. IT IS SO ORDERED September 11, 2025.**

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**



**Reji Varghese  
Executive Director**

1 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 REBECCA L. SMITH  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 179733  
300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702  
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E-mail: Rebecca.Smith@doj.ca.gov  
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2024-110906

13 **SALVADOR PLASENCIA, M.D.**  
14 **5673 Las Virgenes Road**  
15 **Calabasas, CA 91302-1069**

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF  
LICENSE AND ORDER**

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
17 **No. A 146508,**

Respondent.

18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of  
20 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this  
21 matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Rebecca L. Smith, Deputy  
22 Attorney General.

23 2. SALVADOR PLASENCIA, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by  
24 attorney Kevin Cauley, whose address is 35 North Lake Avenue, Suite 710, Pasadena, California  
25 91101-4185.

26 3. On or about December 12, 2016, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's  
27 Certificate No. A 146508 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times  
28 relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2024-110906 and will expire on October

1 31, 2026, unless renewed.

2 **JURISDICTION**

3 4. Accusation No. 800-2024-110906 was filed before the Board and is currently pending  
4 against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly  
5 served on Respondent. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2024-110906 is attached as Exhibit A and  
6 incorporated by reference.

7 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

8 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the  
9 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2024-110906. Respondent also has carefully read,  
10 fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License  
11 and Order.

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

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

20 **CULPABILITY**

21 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2024-  
22 110906, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and  
23 Surgeon's Certificate.

24 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of  
25 further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual  
26 basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline.  
27 Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those  
28 charges.

10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

## CONTINGENCY

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

12. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he enables the Executive Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 146508 without further notice to, or opportunity to be heard by, Respondent.

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

14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the

1 Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this  
2 Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it  
3 shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied  
4 upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees  
5 that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason  
6 by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the  
7 Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review,  
8 discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or  
9 of any matter or matters related hereto.

10 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

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

20 **ORDER**

21 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 146508,  
22 issued to Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

23 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the  
24 acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline  
25 against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part  
26 of Respondent's license history with the Board.

27 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a physician and surgeon in  
28 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. 800-2024-110906 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

5. Respondent shall pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of Six Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and Sixty-Six Cents (\$6,800.66) 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. 800-2024-110906 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and 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 Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Kevin Cauley. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 8/12/2025

SALVADOR PLASENCIA, M.D.  
*Respondent*


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1 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent SALVADOR PLASENCIA, M.D. the  
2 terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and  
3 Order. I approve its form and content.

4  
5 DATED: August 13, 2025

  
KEVIN CAULEY  
Attorney for Respondent


7  
8 **ENDORSEMENT**

9 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted  
10 for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

11 DATED: August 13, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

12 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
13 JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

14   
15 REBECCA L. SMITH  
16 Deputy Attorney General  
Attorneys for Complainant

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**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 800-2024-110906**



1 ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 REBECCA L. SMITH  
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12 **SALVADOR PLASENCIA, M.D.**  
13 **5673 Las Virgenes Road**  
**Calabasas, CA 91302-1069**

**A C C U S A T I O N**

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
15 **No. A 146508,**

Respondent.

16  
17  
18 **PARTIES**

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

22 2. On or about December 12, 2016, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's  
23 Certificate Number A 146508 to Salvador Plasencia, M.D. (Respondent). That license was in full  
24 force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on October 31,  
25 2026, unless renewed.

26 3. On or about August 15, 2024, in the case entitled *United States of America v.*  
27 *Salvador Plasencia*, Case No. 2:24-CR-00236-SPG-2, the United States District Court, Central  
28 District of California, issued an order that as a condition of bail or own recognizance release,

1 during the pendency of Respondent's criminal action until its final conclusion and sentence,  
2 Respondent shall submit to United States Probation and Pretrial Services Supervision; surrender  
3 all passports and travel documents to Supervising Agency; travel is restricted to Central District  
4 of California unless prior permission is granted by Supervising Agency; reside as approved by  
5 Supervising Agency and do not relocate without prior permission; maintain or actively seek  
6 employment unless excused by Supervising Agency for schooling, training, or other reasons  
7 approved by Supervising Agency; avoid all contact, directly or indirectly (including by any  
8 electronic means), with any known victim or witness in the subject investigation or prosecution;  
9 do not use or possess illegal drugs or state-authorized marijuana; submit to a search of person and  
10 property by Supervising Agency, which may be in conjunction with law enforcement; must post a  
11 notice at his business regarding pendency of this case; provide a form to his patients which they  
12 must sign and date acknowledging the pendency of this case. Both notice and form must state  
13 that Respondent has surrendered his DEA registration and is not able to prescribe or administer  
14 any controlled substances.

#### 15 JURISDICTION

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

19 5. Section 2004 of the Code states:

20 The board shall have the responsibility for the following:

21 (a) The enforcement of the disciplinary and criminal provisions of the Medical  
22 Practice Act.

23 (b) The administration and hearing of disciplinary actions.

24 (c) Carrying out disciplinary actions appropriate to findings made by a panel or  
an administrative law judge.

25 (d) Suspending, revoking, or otherwise limiting certificates after the conclusion  
26 of disciplinary actions.

27 (e) Reviewing the quality of medical practice carried out by physician and  
surgeon certificate holders under the jurisdiction of the board.

28 (f) Approving undergraduate and graduate medical education programs.

1 (g) Approving clinical clerkship and special programs and hospitals for the  
programs in subdivision (f).

2 (h) Issuing licenses and certificates under the board's jurisdiction.

3 (i) Administering the board's continuing medical education program.

4 6. Section 2220 of the Code states:

5 Except as otherwise provided by law, the board may take action against all  
6 persons guilty of violating this chapter. The board shall enforce and administer this  
7 article as to physician and surgeon certificate holders, including those who hold  
8 certificates that do not permit them to practice medicine, such as, but not limited to,  
retired, inactive, or disabled status certificate holders, and the board shall have all the  
powers granted in this chapter for these purposes including, but not limited to:

9 (a) Investigating complaints from the public, from other licensees, from health  
10 care facilities, or from the board that a physician and surgeon may be guilty of  
unprofessional conduct. The board shall investigate the circumstances underlying a  
11 report received pursuant to Section 805 or 805.01 within 30 days to determine if an  
interim suspension order or temporary restraining order should be issued. The board  
12 shall otherwise provide timely disposition of the reports received pursuant to Section  
805 and Section 805.01.

13 (b) Investigating the circumstances of practice of any physician and surgeon  
14 where there have been any judgments, settlements, or arbitration awards requiring the  
physician and surgeon or his or her professional liability insurer to pay an amount in  
15 damages in excess of a cumulative total of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) with  
respect to any claim that injury or damage was proximately caused by the physician's  
and surgeon's error, negligence, or omission.

16 (c) Investigating the nature and causes of injuries from cases which shall be  
17 reported of a high number of judgments, settlements, or arbitration awards against a  
physician and surgeon.

18 7. Section 2227 of the Code states:

19 (a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of  
20 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  
21 into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the  
provisions of this chapter:

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

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

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

26 (4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a  
27 requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the  
board.  
28

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

3 (b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters,  
4 medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations,  
5 continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are  
6 agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters  
7 made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made  
8 available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1.

### 9 STATUTORY PROVISIONS

10 8. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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

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

16 (b) Gross negligence.

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

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

24 (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or  
25 omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but  
26 not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the  
27 licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure  
28 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 no later than 30 calendar days after being  
notified by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is  
the subject of an investigation by the board.

(h) Any action of the licensee, or another person acting on behalf of the  
licensee, intended to cause their patient or their patient's authorized representative to  
rescind consent to release the patient's medical records to the board or the  
Department of Consumer Affairs, Health Quality Investigation Unit.

1 (i) Dissuading, intimidating, or tampering with a patient, witness, or any person  
2 in an attempt to prevent them from reporting or testifying about a licensee.

3 9. Section 2236 of the Code states:

4 (a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications,  
5 functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct  
6 within the meaning of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act]. The record  
7 of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction  
8 occurred.

9 (b) The district attorney, city attorney, or other prosecuting agency shall notify  
10 the Medical Board of the pendency of an action against a licensee charging a felony  
11 or misdemeanor immediately upon obtaining information that the defendant is a  
12 licensee. The notice shall identify the licensee and describe the crimes charged and  
13 the facts alleged. The prosecuting agency shall also notify the clerk of the court in  
14 which the action is pending that the defendant is a licensee, and the clerk shall record  
15 prominently in the file that the defendant holds a license as a physician and surgeon.

16 (c) The clerk of the court in which a licensee is convicted of a crime shall,  
17 within 48 hours after the conviction, transmit a certified copy of the record of  
18 conviction to the board. The division may inquire into the circumstances surrounding  
19 the commission of a crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if  
20 the conviction is of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or  
21 duties of a physician and surgeon.

22 (d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is  
23 deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section and Section 2236.1.  
24 The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction  
25 occurred.

26 10. Section 490 of the Code states:

27 (a) In addition to any other action that a board is permitted to take against a  
28 licensee, a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has  
been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications,  
functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a board may exercise any  
authority to discipline a licensee for conviction of a crime that is independent of the  
authority granted under subdivision (a) only if the crime is substantially related to the  
qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the  
licensee's license was issued.

(c) A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of  
guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action that a board is  
permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the  
time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on  
appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of  
sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of  
the Penal Code.

(d) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the application of this section  
has been made unclear by the holding in *Petropoulos v. Department of Real Estate*  
(2006) 142 Cal.App.4th 554, and that the holding in that case has placed a significant  
number of statutes and regulations in question, resulting in potential harm to the

consumers of California from licensees who have been convicted of crimes. Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares that this section establishes an independent basis for a board to impose discipline upon a licensee, and that the amendments to this section made by Chapter 33 of the Statutes of 2008 do not constitute a change to, but rather are declaratory of, existing law.

11. Section 2242 of the Code states:

(a) Prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing dangerous drugs as defined in Section 4022 without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication, constitutes unprofessional conduct. An appropriate prior examination does not require a synchronous interaction between the patient and the licensee and can be achieved through the use of telehealth, including, but not limited to, a self-screening tool or a questionnaire, provided that the licensee complies with the appropriate standard of care.

(b) No licensee shall be found to have committed unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this section if, at the time the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished, any of the following applies:

(1) The licensee was a designated physician and surgeon or podiatrist serving in the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and if the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished only as necessary to maintain the patient until the return of the patient's practitioner, but in any case no longer than 72 hours.

(2) The licensee transmitted the order for the drugs to a registered nurse or to a licensed vocational nurse in an inpatient facility, and if both of the following conditions exist:

(A) The practitioner had consulted with the registered nurse or licensed vocational nurse who had reviewed the patient's records.

(B) The practitioner was designated as the practitioner to serve in the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be.

(3) The licensee was a designated practitioner serving in the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and was in possession of or had utilized the patient's records and ordered the renewal of a medically indicated prescription for an amount not exceeding the original prescription in strength or amount or for more than one refill.

(4) The licensee was acting in accordance with Section 120582 of the Health and Safety Code.

12. Section 725 of the Code states:

(a) Repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or administering of drugs or treatment, repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic procedures, or repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic or treatment facilities as determined by the standard of the community of licensees is unprofessional conduct for a physician and surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, psychologist, physical therapist, chiropractor, optometrist, speech-language pathologist, or audiologist.

1 (b) Any person who engages in repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing or  
2 administering of drugs or treatment is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished  
3 by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than six hundred  
4 dollars (\$600), or by imprisonment for a term of not less than 60 days nor more than  
5 180 days, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

6 (c) A practitioner who has a medical basis for prescribing, furnishing,  
7 dispensing, or administering dangerous drugs or prescription controlled substances  
8 shall not be subject to disciplinary action or prosecution under this section.

9 (d) No physician and surgeon shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to  
10 this section for treating intractable pain in compliance with Section 2241.5.

11 13. Section 2228.1 of the Code states:

12 (a) On and after July 1, 2019, except as otherwise provided in subdivision (c),  
13 the board and the Podiatric Medical Board of California shall require a licensee to  
14 provide a separate disclosure that includes the licensee's probation status, the length  
15 of the probation, the probation end date, all practice restrictions placed on the licensee  
16 by the board, the board's telephone number, and an explanation of how the patient  
17 can find further information on the licensee's probation on the licensee's profile page  
18 on the board's online license information internet web site, to a patient or the  
19 patient's guardian or health care surrogate before the patient's first visit following the  
20 probationary order while the licensee is on probation pursuant to a probationary order  
21 made on and after July 1, 2019, in any of the following circumstances:

22 (1) A final adjudication by the board following an administrative hearing or  
23 admitted findings or prima facie showing in a stipulated settlement establishing any  
24 of the following:

25 (A) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a  
26 patient or client as defined in Section 726 or 729.

27 (B) Drug or alcohol abuse directly resulting in harm to patients or the extent  
28 that such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice safely.

(C) Criminal conviction directly involving harm to patient health.

(D) Inappropriate prescribing resulting in harm to patients and a probationary  
period of five years or more.

(2) An accusation or statement of issues alleged that the licensee committed any  
of the acts described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1), and a  
stipulated settlement based upon a nolo contendere or other similar compromise that  
does not include any prima facie showing or admission of guilt or fact but does  
include an express acknowledgment that the disclosure requirements of this section  
would serve to protect the public interest.

(b) A licensee required to provide a disclosure pursuant to subdivision (a) shall  
obtain from the patient, or the patient's guardian or health care surrogate, a separate,  
signed copy of that disclosure.

(c) A licensee shall not be required to provide a disclosure pursuant to  
subdivision (a) if any of the following applies:

(1) The patient is unconscious or otherwise unable to comprehend the

disclosure and sign the copy of the disclosure pursuant to subdivision (b) and a guardian or health care surrogate is unavailable to comprehend the disclosure and sign the copy.

(2) The visit occurs in an emergency room or an urgent care facility or the visit is unscheduled, including consultations in inpatient facilities.

(3) The licensee who will be treating the patient during the visit is not known to the patient until immediately prior to the start of the visit.

(4) The licensee does not have a direct treatment relationship with the patient.

(d) On and after July 1, 2019, the board shall provide the following information, with respect to licensees on probation and licensees practicing under probationary licenses, in plain view on the licensee's profile page on the board's online license information internet web site.

(1) For probation imposed pursuant to a stipulated settlement, the causes alleged in the operative accusation along with a designation identifying those causes by which the licensee has expressly admitted guilt and a statement that acceptance of the settlement is not an admission of guilt.

(2) For probation imposed by an adjudicated decision of the board, the causes for probation stated in the final probationary order.

(3) For a licensee granted a probationary license, the causes by which the probationary license was imposed.

(4) The length of the probation and end date.

(5) All practice restrictions placed on the license by the board.

(e) Section 2314 shall not apply to this section.

### **REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

14. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1360, states:

(a) For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license pursuant to Section 141 or Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime, professional misconduct, or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license to perform the functions authorized by the license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or welfare. Such crimes, professional misconduct, or acts shall include but not be limited to the following: Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of state or federal law governing the applicant's or licensee's professional practice.

(b) In making the substantial relationship determination required under subdivision (a) for a crime, the board shall consider the following criteria:

(1) The nature and gravity of the crime;



- 1 (2) The number of years elapsed since the date of the crime; and  
2 (3) The nature and duties of the profession.

3 **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/DANGEROUS DRUGS**

4 15. Code section 4021 states:

5 "Controlled substance" means any substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing  
6 with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code.

7 16. Code section 4022 provides:

8 "Dangerous drug" or "dangerous device" means any drug or device unsafe for  
9 self-use in humans or animals, and includes the following:

10 (a) Any drug that bears the legend: "Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing  
11 without prescription," "Rx only," or words of similar import.

12 (b) Any device that bears the statement: "Caution: federal law restricts this  
13 device to sale by or on the order of a \_\_\_\_\_," "Rx only," or words of similar  
14 import, the blank to be filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use  
15 or order use of the device.

16 (c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully  
17 dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006.

18 **COST RECOVERY**

19 17. Section 125.3 of the Code states:

20 (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a  
21 disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the  
22 Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the  
23 administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or  
24 violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the  
25 investigation and enforcement of the case.

26 (b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership, the  
27 order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.

28 (c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where  
actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its  
designated representative shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of  
investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of  
investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not  
limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.

(d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount  
of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested  
pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard to

1 costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board may  
2 reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if the  
3 proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to subdivision  
4 (a).

5 (e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as  
6 directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any  
7 appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights  
8 the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.

9 (f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be  
10 conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.

11 (g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or  
12 reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered  
13 under this section.

14 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion,  
15 conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any  
16 licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement  
17 with the board to reimburse the board within that one-year period for the unpaid  
18 costs.

19 (h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement  
20 for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs  
21 to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.

22 (i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of  
23 the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.

24 (j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in  
25 that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative  
26 disciplinary proceeding.

## 27 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

### 28 **(Conviction of a Crime)**

18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234, subdivision (a),  
section 2236, subdivision (a), and section 490 of the Code, and California Code of Regulations,  
title 16, section 1360, in that he has entered into a plea agreement to be convicted of a crime  
substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon. The  
circumstances are as follows:

19. At all relevant times, Respondent operated and was the owner of an urgent care clinic,  
Malibu Canyon Urgent Care LLC, located in Malibu, California. Respondent had also applied for  
and obtained authorization from the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") to dispense,  
administer, and prescribe narcotics and other controlled substances, so long as such prescriptions

1 were for a legitimate medical purpose and within the scope of professional medical practice.

2 20. As a medical doctor, Respondent knew that ketamine was a Schedule III controlled  
3 substance as well as a dissociative anesthetic.<sup>1</sup> Respondent knew that some medical providers  
4 used ketamine off-label to treat depression and other psychiatric conditions, and that such  
5 treatments were not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. At all relevant times,  
6 Respondent knew about potential risks associated with ketamine, including sedation, dissociation,  
7 psychiatric events, abuse and misuse by patients, among others. As Respondent's treatment notes  
8 reflected, Respondent also believed that patients "should be monitored by [a] physician when  
9 undergoing treatment as a safety measure."

10 21. On September 30, 2023, Respondent was introduced to Patient 1<sup>2</sup> by one of  
11 Respondent's own patients who stated that Patient 1 was a "high profile person" who was seeking  
12 ketamine and was willing to pay "cash and lots of thousands" for ketamine treatment.  
13 Respondent subsequently contacted Patient 1 and requested a telehealth visit. Respondent and  
14 Patient 1 spoke by phone and continued to exchange text communications about Patient 1's  
15 request for ketamine.

16 22. The same day that Respondent was introduced to Patient 1, Respondent contacted Dr.  
17 M.C., who Respondent knew had previously owned a ketamine clinic, to discuss Patient 1's  
18 request for ketamine. After Dr. M.C. confirmed he had ketamine vials and lozenges that he could  
19 immediately sell to Respondent, Respondent informed Patient 1 that he could provide him with 9,  
20 "maybe 18," doses of ketamine. Patient 1 and Respondent agreed that Respondent would deliver  
21 the ketamine to Patient 1's residence. In response to Patient 1 asking whether Respondent would  
22 stay to administer the ketamine, Respondent responded: "I will give you first dose if you would  
23 like and leave supplies with you."

24 23. To obtain ketamine for Patient 1, Respondent traveled to Costa Mesa to purchase  
25 ketamine from Dr. M.C. Dr. M.C. sold Respondent four vials of liquid ketamine, an open box of

26  
27 <sup>1</sup>In addition to being a Schedule III Controlled Substance, ketamine is a dangerous drug pursuant  
to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

28 <sup>2</sup> The patient is referred to as Patient 1 to protect his privacy.

1 ketamine lozenges that had been previously prescribed to a patient whom Respondent did not  
2 know, as well as gloves and syringes. Respondent paid Dr. M.C Seven Hundred Ninety-Five  
3 Dollars (\$795).

4 24. Respondent then traveled to Patient 1's residence, where he injected ketamine into  
5 Patient 1 and left at least one vial of ketamine with K.I., Patient 1's personal assistant. K.I. paid  
6 Respondent approximately Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500).

7 25. On October 2, 2023, Respondent again administered ketamine to Patient 1 at his  
8 residence. Respondent left additional liquid ketamine and ketamine lozenges with K.I., knowing  
9 that K.I. did not have medical training and would be administering the ketamine to Patient 1  
10 without Respondent present.

11 26. On October 4, 2023, K.I. sent a text message to Respondent indicating that Patient 1  
12 had run out of ketamine and needed more. In response, Respondent confirmed he could deliver  
13 more ketamine later that day. Respondent subsequently obtained eight vials of ketamine from Dr.  
14 M.C. and traveled to Patient 1's residence where he administered ketamine to Patient 1.  
15 Respondent left additional ketamine vials and lozenges with K.I. to administer to Patient 1 at a  
16 later time. In exchange, Respondent was paid approximately Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000).

17 27. On October 6, 2023, K.I. sent a text message to Respondent asking if he could bring  
18 the remaining ketamine and supplies to Patient 1. Respondent then traveled to Patient 1's  
19 residence where Respondent administered ketamine and left additional vials of ketamine with K.I.  
20 In exchange, Respondent was paid approximately Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000).

21 28. On October 7, 2023, K.I. informed Respondent in text messages that he "just ran out"  
22 of ketamine and requested more. At approximately 11:29 p.m., Respondent responded by text,  
23 stating he had two ketamine vials available and offered to meet K.I. in Santa Monica, noting: "Im  
24 at third street promenade now . . . If You would like to meet now." On October 8, 2023, at  
25 approximately 12:30 a.m., K.I. met Respondent near the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica  
26 to obtain vials of ketamine for Patient 1, for which Respondent received payment.

27 29. On October 10, 2023, K.I. contacted Respondent and requested additional ketamine  
28 for Patient 1 and asked if Respondent could meet K.I. and Patient 1 in Long Beach. Respondent

1 then traveled to a public parking lot at the Long Beach Aquarium, where he administered  
2 ketamine to Patient 1 while in the backseat of Patient 1's vehicle. Respondent also left additional  
3 vials of ketamine with K.I. K.I. paid Respondent approximately Six Thousand Five Hundred  
4 Dollars (\$6,500) for the ketamine.

5 30. On October 12, 2023, K.I. again contacted Respondent on behalf of Patient 1 and  
6 asked Respondent to deliver more ketamine. Respondent traveled to Patient 1's residence where  
7 he administered ketamine to Patient 1. During the treatment, Patient 1's blood pressure spiked  
8 causing Patient 1 to freeze up. Notwithstanding Patient 1's reaction, Respondent left additional  
9 vials of ketamine with K.I., knowing that K.I. would inject the ketamine into Patient 1.

10 31. Respondent subsequently placed an order for ten vials of ketamine through a licensed  
11 pharmaceutical company using his DEA license. After receiving the ketamine, on October 27,  
12 2023, Respondent sent the following text message to K.I.: "I know you mentioned taking a break.  
13 I have been stocking up on the meanwhile. I am not sure when you guys plan to resume but in  
14 case its when im out of town this weekend I have left supplies with a nurse of mine ...I can always  
15 let her know the plan."

16 32. The following day, on October 28, 2023, Patient 1 died from the acute effects of  
17 ketamine. The ketamine that caused Patient 1's death was not provided by Respondent.

18 33. In total, between September 30, 2023, and October 12, 2023, Respondent distributed  
19 twenty 5ml (100mg/ml) vials of ketamine, less than a full package of ketamine lozenges, and  
20 syringes, to K.I. and Patient 1.

21 34. On or about June 13, 2025, Respondent entered a plea agreement to plead guilty to  
22 Counts Six, Eight, Nine, and Ten of the first superseding indictment in the matter of *United States*  
23 *of America v. Salvador Plasencia*, Case No. 2:24-CR-00236-SPG-2. As to each of these counts,  
24 Respondent is charged with distribution of ketamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code,  
25 Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(E)(i).

26 35. Respondent is awaiting sentencing.

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1 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Unprofessional Conduct - Furnishing Dangerous Drugs Without Examination)**

3 36. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2242, subdivision (a),  
4 in that he committed unprofessional conduct when he prescribed dangerous drugs to Patient 1  
5 without an appropriate prior examination and/or medical indication. The circumstances are as  
6 follows:

7 37. The allegations in the First Cause for Discipline, above, are incorporated herein by  
8 reference as if fully set forth.

9 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

10 **(Excessive Prescribing)**

11 38. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 725, in that he  
12 excessively prescribed dangerous drugs to Patient 1. The circumstances are as follows:

13 39. The allegations in the First and Second Causes for Discipline, above, are incorporated  
14 herein by reference as if fully set forth.

15 **PRAYER**

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

18 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 146508,  
19 issued to Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D.;

20 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D.'s  
21 authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

22 3. Ordering Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the  
23 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation  
24 monitoring;

25 4. Ordering Respondent Salvador Plasencia, M.D., if placed on probation, to provide  
26 patient notification in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 2228.1; and


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5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: JUL 07 2025

 for  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REJI VARGHESE  
Executive Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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