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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 500-2022-001342

Jason Khadavi, D.P.M

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Certificate No. DPM 5064

Respondent.

DECISION

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

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on October 24, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED September 26, 2025.

PODIATRIC MEDICAL BOARD

Daniel Lee, D.P.M, PhD Board President

20414 1 100140111

1 2 3 4 5	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General LATRICE R. HEMPHILL Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 285973 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013			
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6198 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117 E-mail: latrice.hemphill@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant			
8	BEFORE THE PODIATRIC MEDICAL BOARD			
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 500-2022-001342		
12	JASON KHADAVI, D.P.M	OAH No. 2025050808		
13 14	16661 Ventura Blvd., Suite 820 Encino, CA 91436	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER		
15 16	Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. DPM 5064,			
17	. Respondent.			
18				
19				
20	1. Brian Naslund (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Podiatric Medical Board			
21	(Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by			
22	Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Latrice R. Hemphill, Deputy Attorney			
23	General.			
24	2. Respondent Jason Khadavi, D.P.M. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by			
25	attorney C. Keith Greer, Esq., whose address is: 16855 W. Bernardo Drive, Suite 255, San			
26	Diego, CA 92127-1626.			
27	3. On or about April 22, 2013, the Board issued Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License			
28	No. DPM 5064 to Respondent. The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License was in full force and			
	1			
	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT	DISCIPLINARY ORDER (Case No. 500-2022-001342)		

effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 500-2022-001342, and will expire on October 31, 2026, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 4. Accusation No. 500-2022-001342 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 March 11, 2025. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. 500-2022-001342 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 500-2022-001342. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with 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.

CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 500-2022-001342, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License.
- 10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual

basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.

11. Respondent agrees that his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Podiatric Medical Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Podiatric Medical Board 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.
- 13. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 500-2022-001342 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.
- 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.
- 15. 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.

16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License No. DPM 5064 issued to Respondent Jason Khadavi, D.P.M is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for four (4) years on the following terms and conditions:

- 1. <u>EDUCATION COURSE</u> Within 60 days of the effective date of this Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified or Board approved and limited to classroom, conference, or seminar settings. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at the Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements, which must be scientific in nature, for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.
- 2. <u>MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping, at Respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first 6 months of probation is a violation of probation.

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

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its

designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

3. <u>ETHICS COURSE</u> Within 60 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at Respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year is a violation of probation.

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

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision.

4. <u>NOTIFICATION</u> Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the Respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of podiatric medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Division or its designee within 15 calendar days.

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

- 5. <u>PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS</u> Prior to receiving assistance from a physician assistant, Respondent must notify the supervising physician of the terms and conditions of his probation.
- 6. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u> Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of podiatric medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.
- 7. <u>QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS</u> Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been

compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

8. PROBATION COMPLIANCE UNIT Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of podiatric medicine in respondent's place of residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California doctor of podiatric medicine's license.

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

- 9. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u> Respondent shall be available in person for interviews either at respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office with the Board or its designee, upon request, at various intervals and either with or without notice throughout the term of probation.
- 10. <u>RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE</u> In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to

comply with the probationary terms and conditions, with the exception of this condition, and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Law; Probation Unit Compliance; and Cost Recovery.

Respondent's license shall be automatically cancelled if Respondent's periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California totals two years. However, Respondent's license shall not be cancelled as long as Respondent is residing and practicing podiatric medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two-year period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

11. FAILURE TO PRACTICE PODIATRIC MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT
In the event the Respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason Respondent stops practicing podiatric medicine in California, Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any period of non-practice within California as defined in this condition will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding thirty calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in section 2472 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's license shall be automatically cancelled if Respondent resides in California and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities described in Business and Professions Code section 2472.

12. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's

certificate will be fully restored.

- 13. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u> If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final, and no petition for modification of penalty shall be considered while there is an accusation or petition to revoke probation pending against Respondent.
- 14. <u>COST RECOVERY</u> Within 90 calendar days from the effective date of the Decision or other period agreed to by the Board or its designee, Respondent shall reimburse the Board the amount of \$26,403.00 for its investigative and prosecution costs. The filing of bankruptcy or period of non-practice by Respondent shall not relieve the Respondent of his obligation to reimburse the Board for its costs.
- 15. <u>LICENSE SURRENDER</u> Following the effective date of this Decision, if Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons, or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request the voluntary surrender of Respondent's license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate the Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice podiatric medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of Respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action. If Respondent re-applies for a podiatric medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.
- 16. <u>PROBATION MONITORING COSTS</u> Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Board of Podiatric Medicine and delivered to the Board or its designee within 60 days after the start of the new fiscal

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year. Failure to pay costs within 30 calendar days of this date is a violation of probation.

- 17. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES Respondent shall, upon or before the effective date of this Decision, post or circulate a notice which actually recites the offenses for which Respondent has been disciplined and the terms and conditions of probation to all employees involved in his practice. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall cause his employees to report to the Board in writing, acknowledging the employees have read the Accusation and Decision in the case and understand Respondent's terms and conditions of probation.
- 18. <u>CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT</u> Respondent shall notify the Board in writing, through the assigned probation officer, of any and all changes of employment, location, and address within thirty (30) days of such change.
- 19. <u>COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION</u>
 Respondent shall submit satisfactory proof biennially to the Board of compliance with the requirement to complete fifty hours of approved continuing medical education, and meet continuing competence requirements for re-licensure during each two (2) year renewal period.
- 20. <u>FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE</u> If Respondent should petition for early termination or modification of probation, or if an Accusation and/or Petition to Revoke Probation is filed against the Respondent before the Board, or Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, and/or file a petition for reinstatement of a license, before the Board or any other health care licensing action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in the Accusation No. 500-2022-001342 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any disciplinary proceeding seeking to deny, restrict, or revoke licensure or any petition proceeding seeking to reinstate licensure or modify probation.

ACCEPTANCE 1 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully 2 discussed it with my attorney, C. Keith Greer, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it 3 will have on my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and 4 Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the 5 Decision and Order of the Podiatric Medical Board. 6 7 9/2/2025 DATED: 8 JASON KHADAVI, D.P.M. 9 Respondent I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Jason Khadavi, D.P.M. the terms and 10 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. 11 12 I approve its form and content. 13 9/2/2025 14 DATED: C. KEITH GREER, ESQ. 15 Attorney for Respondent 16 17 **ENDORSEMENT** 18 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully 19 submitted for consideration by the Podiatric Medical Board. 20 DATED: Respectfully submitted, 21 ROB BONTA 22 Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO 23 Supervising Deputy Attorney General 24 25 LATRICE R. HEMPHILL Deputy Attorney General 26 Attorneys for Complainant 27 LA2024605809 67895520.docx 28 10

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT DISCIPLINARY ORDER (Case No. 500-2022-001342)

1	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>		
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully		
3	discussed it with my attorney, C. Keith Greer, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it		
4	will have on my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and		
5	Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the		
6	Decision and Order of the Podiatric Medical Board.		
7			
8	DATED:		
9	JASON KHADAVI, D.P.M. Respondent		
0	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Jason Khadavi, D.P.M. the terms and		
. 1	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order		
2	I approve its form and content.		
.3			
.4	DATED:		
.5	C. KEITH GREER, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent		
6			
7	ENDORSEMENT		
8	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully		
9	submitted for consideration by the Podiatric Medical Board.		
20	DATED: August 28, 2025 Respectfully submitted,		
21			
22	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO		
23	Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
24	S. nombul		
25	LATRICE R. HEMPHILL		
26	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant		
27	LA2024605809		
28	67895520.docx		

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 500-2022-001342

1	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California		
2	JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
3	LATRICE R. HEMPHILL Deputy Attorney General		
4	State Bar No. 285973		
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013		
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6198 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117		
7	E-mail: latrice.hemphill@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant	•	
8	BEFORE THE		
9	PODIATRIC MEDICAL BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 500-2022-001342	
12	JASON KHADAVI, D.P.M 5076 Avenida Oriente	ACCUSATION	
13	Tarzana, CA 91356	•	
14	Podiatrist License No. DPM 5064,		
15	Respondent.		
16	respondent.		
17		·	
18			
19	<u>PARTIES</u>		
20	Brian Naslund (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity as		
21	the Executive Officer of the Podiatric Medical Board, Department of Consumer Affairs.		
22	2. On or about April 22, 2013, Podiatric Medical Board issued Podiatrist License		
23	Number DPM 5064 to JASON KHADAVI, D.P.M (Respondent). The Podiatrist License was in		
24	full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on October		
25	31, 2026, unless renewed.		
26	<i>III</i>		
27	<i>///</i>		
28	<i>'</i>		
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Į	(JASON KHADAVI, D.P.M) ACCUSATION No. 500-2022-001342		

JURISDICTION

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

4. Section 2222 of the Code states:

The California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall enforce and administer this article as to doctors of podiatric medicine. Any acts of unprofessional conduct or other violations proscribed by this chapter are applicable to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine and wherever the Medical Quality Hearing Panel established under Section 11371 of the Government Code is vested with the authority to enforce and carry out this chapter as to licensed physicians and surgeons, the Medical Quality Hearing Panel also possesses that same authority as to licensed doctors of podiatric medicine.

The California Board of Podiatric Medicine may order the denial of an application or issue a certificate subject to conditions as set forth in Section 2221, or order the revocation, suspension, or other restriction of, or the modification of that penalty, and the reinstatement of any certificate of a doctor of podiatric medicine within its authority as granted by this chapter and in conjunction with the administrative hearing procedures established pursuant to Sections 11371, 11372, 11373, and 11529 of the Government Code. For these purposes, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall exercise the powers granted and be governed by the procedures set forth in this chapter.

5. Section 2460.1 of the Code states:

Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the California Board of Podiatric Medicine in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

6. Section 651 states:

- (a) It is unlawful for any person licensed under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division to disseminate or cause to be disseminated any form of public communication containing a false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement, claim, or image for the purpose of or likely to induce, directly or indirectly, the rendering of professional services or furnishing of products in connection with the professional practice or business for which he or she is licensed. A "public communication" as used in this section includes, but is not limited to, communication by means of mail, television, radio, motion picture, newspaper, book, list or directory of healing arts practitioners, Internet, or other electronic communication.
- (b) A false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement, claim, or image includes a statement or claim that does any of the following:

(JASON KHADAVI, D.P.M) ACCUSATION No. 500-2022-001342

Chapter 5 by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine who is certified by an organization other than a board or association referred to in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) shall not use the term "board certified" in reference to that certification.

For purposes of this subparagraph, a "multidisciplinary board or association" means an educational certifying body that has a psychometrically valid testing process, as determined by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, for certifying doctors of podiatric medicine that is based on the applicant's education, training, and experience. For purposes of the term "board certified," as used in this subparagraph, the terms "board" and "association" mean an organization that is a Council on Podiatric Medical Education approved board, an organization with equivalent requirements approved by the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, or an organization with a Council on Podiatric Medical Education approved postgraduate training program that provides training in podiatric medicine and podiatric surgery.

7. 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 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.
- (i) Dissuading, intimidating, or tampering with a patient, witness, or any person in an attempt to prevent them from reporting or testifying about a licensee.

8. 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 for at least seven years after the last date of service to a patient constitutes unprofessional conduct.

COST RECOVERY

9. Section 2497.5 of the Code states:

- (a) The board may request the administrative law judge, under his or her proposed decision in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, to direct any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.
- (b) The costs to be assessed shall be fixed by the administrative law judge and shall not be increased by the board unless the board does not adopt a proposed decision and in making its own decision finds grounds for increasing the costs to be assessed, not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.
- (c) When the payment directed in the board's order for payment of costs is not made by the licensee, the board may enforce the order for payment by bringing an action in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee directed to pay costs.
- (d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.
- (e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within that one year period for those unpaid costs.
- (f) All costs recovered under this section shall be deposited in the Board of Podiatric Medicine Fund as a reimbursement in either the fiscal year in which the costs are actually recovered or the previous fiscal year, as the board may direct.

DEFINITIONS

- 10. A first metatarsal head osteotomy in bunion correction is a surgical procedure where the surgeon cuts and realigns the bone at the distal head of the metatarsal bone in order to correct the alignment of the big toe and alleviate pain.
- 11. An adductor tendon transfer to first metatarsal is a surgical procedure that corrects a bunion by transferring a tendon in the sole of the foot to help stabilize the joint and correct the deformity.
- 12. A medial foot release, or medial capsular release, is a surgical procedure that corrects foot deformities, whereby a surgeon makes an incision on the medial side of the joint between the first metatarsal base and the medial cuneiform bone in the foot to release contracted soft tissues and improve joint mobility.
- 13. Capsulitis is a condition where the ligament structure at the joint, known as the capsule, becomes inflamed.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 14. On or about October 19, 2021, Patient A,¹ a then forty-year-old woman, presented to Respondent complaining of pain secondary to a bunion on her left foot. Patient A explained that she had a bunion for years and it has worsened over time, making it difficult to wear most shoes and affecting her daily life. Patient A tried using different shoes and pads, but nothing helped.
- 15. Respondent conducted a physical examination and noted that Patient A had bunion deformity, also known as hallux valgus, with pain on the left foot, and difficulty walking. Respondent ordered x-rays and instructed Patient A to schedule a follow-up for further consultation and treatment following those x-rays. Respondent also recommended that Patient A undergo a head osteotomy type bunion correction of the left foot. He discussed the risks and complications of the procedure with Patient A.
- 16. On or about December 7, 2021, Patient A presented to Respondent for a pre-operative consultation and evaluation of the left foot. Respondent informed Patient A about the nature and purpose of the operations, possible alternative methods of treatment, the risks involved, and the

¹ The patient is identified as Patient A to protect her privacy in this Accusation.

possible consequences. Respondent also informed Patient A about the alternatives to surgery. During this visit, Patient A executed written consent for the left foot bunion correction and the consent acknowledged the aforementioned information, including risks, alternatives, etc.

- 17. On or about December 16, 2021, Patient A presented to her primary care physician (PCP) to obtain pre-operative clearance. Patient A reported that she had a history of Keloid scar formation, and her PCP discussed the risk of keloids with the upcoming bunion surgery. The PCP cleared Patient A for the procedure.
- 18. On or about December 21, 2021, Patient A presented to Respondent for surgery. Respondent performed a left foot first metatarsal phalangeal joint (MPJ) osteotomy and implant fixation, adductor tendon transfer to first metatarsal, and medial foot release. Respondent noted that there were no complications with the surgery, and a protective postoperative shoe was applied to Patient A's left foot.
- 19. On or about December 28, 2021, Patient A presented to Respondent for a one-week postoperative visit. Respondent examined Patient A's foot and noted that the incisions were intact and undisturbed, and there was mild to moderate swelling of the left foot. He noted that the foot was progressing as expected. Respondent advised Patient A to avoid excessive activity, keep the foot elevated, and maintain partial weight bearing with the postoperative shoe, among other things. Respondent ordered x-rays and instructed Patient A to return in one week, following the x-rays.
- 20. On or about January 4, 2022, Patient A returned to Respondent for another follow-up. Respondent examined the foot and found that the surgical incisions were completely healed, but there continued to be moderate swelling. The x-rays showed adequate alignment of the first ray, an intact implant, and no sign of dislocation or displacement. Respondent noted that the foot was progressing as expected and instructed Patient A to follow-up in two weeks.
- 21. On or about January 10, 2022, Patient A presented to Respondent and indicated that she suffered a traumatic event in which she slammed her left foot. She stated that she immediately felt swelling and pain in the foot and tried to ice it, but it continued to be painful. Respondent examined the foot and took x-rays of the foot. Respondent noted that there was

moderate swelling and the x-rays showed mild soft tissue swelling over the first metatarsal head, but no loosening of the hardware and joint spaces were within normal limits. Respondent noted no acute signs of fracture or dislocation. He advised Patient A to rest and continue to ice the foot as much as possible.

- 22. Patient A continued to present to Respondent for follow-up visits throughout January and February 2022. During a visit, on or about February 15, 2022, Respondent recommended that Patient A attend physical therapy to improve the toe's range of motion, to which she obliged.
- 23. On or about April 29, 2022, Patient A presented to Respondent wearing high heel shoes. She reported that she was doing much better and was able to perform more activities.

 Consequently, Respondent released Patient A to return to all activities with no limitations.
- 24. On or about May 27, 2022, Patient A presented to Respondent and reported that she was discouraged because her range of motion was limited again, and she did not feel comfortable performing many normal activities. She explained that weeks prior she started to feel limitation and pain in her big toe. Patient A indicated that physical therapy was not providing relief.

 Respondent recommended x-rays for further diagnosis, but Patient A declined, and he recommended continued participation in physical therapy. Respondent provided an injection of Kenalog² mixed with Dexamethasone phosphate³ to the region of complaint.
- 25. On or about September 9, 2022, Patient A presented for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of her left foot, which was previously ordered by Respondent. On or about September 19, 2022, Patient A presented to Respondent to discuss the MRI results. Respondent noted that the MRI showed cystic changes to the medial aspect of the first metatarsal head, bone marrow edema to the medial aspect of the first metatarsal head, and capsulitis with inflammation to the first MPJ. Respondent provided another steroid injection to help with the foot's swelling and ordered a bone stimulator to be used daily. Respondent recommended that Patient A undergo a CT scan, but she declined. Lastly, Respondent recommended another surgery to remove the screw and thin the capsule, but Patient A declined.

³ Dexamethasone phosphate is a steroid that is used to treat a variety of conditions.

² Kenalog is a potent corticosteroid that is used to treat inflammation caused by a variety of conditions.

26. Patient A did not return to Respondent for another scheduled follow-up appointment and has not presented to Respondent since the September 2022 appointment.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

- 27. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (c), in that Respondent was repeatedly negligent in his care and treatment of Patient A. The circumstances are as follows:
- 28. Complainant hereby re-alleges the facts set forth in paragraphs 14 through 26, above, as though fully set forth.
- 29. The standard of care when treating a bunion deformity requires a practitioner to obtain a medical history, perform a physical examination, order appropriate imaging studies, obtain informed consent, perform the appropriate surgery, and provide the appropriate follow-up care.
- 30. Respondent obtained Patient A's medical history, performed a physical examination, obtained informed consent, and arrived at a diagnosis. Respondent's diagnosis, and choice of surgery, was based on non-weight bearing x-rays and an estimate of what the intermetatarsal angle might be with weight bearing. However, the choice of surgical procedure should be based on weight bearing x-rays. In fact, there are no peer reviewed studies demonstrating the predictability of estimating the intermetatarsal angle in non-weight bearing x-rays. During his interview with the Board, Respondent indicated that he estimated the intermetatarsal angle at 12-16 degrees. Consequently, Respondent performed a bunionectomy with osteotomy, adductor tendon transfer, and medial capsular release at the metatarsal cuneiform joint. The preoperative non-weight bearing intermetatarsal angle was approximately 10 degrees. As such, the medial release of the first metatarsal cuneiform joint was unnecessary. That procedure is reserved for those patients where the intermetatarsal angle cannot be corrected via head osteotomy alone. Respondent's actions constitute a simple departure from the standard of care.
- 31. The standard of care when evaluating an injury requires a practitioner to obtain a history of the injury, order the appropriate imaging studies, and provide adequate treatment.

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Patient A sustained a traumatic accident postoperatively. Respondent ordered three radiographic views of the foot, but a lateral view was not taken. Consequently, Respondent was unable to evaluate the possible dorsal displacement of the capital fragment,⁴ and he did not follow up on the omission. Respondent's failure to follow-up and obtain a lateral x-ray view after Patient A's injury, constitutes a simple departure from the standard of care.

32. The standard of care requires a practitioner to document all visits accurately and to include subjective and objective findings, diagnoses, medical indications, and the treatment provided. Respondent failed to document the indications for each of the procedures he performed on Patient A. Respondent's failures constitute a simple departure from the standard of care.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Adequate Medical Records)

- 33. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2266 in that Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in his care and treatment of Patient A. Complainant refers to and, by this reference, incorporates herein, paragraphs 14 through 26, above, as though fully set forth herein. The circumstances are as follows:
- 34. The allegations of the First Cause for Discipline, in paragraph 32, above, are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct - Dishonesty)

- 35. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 651 and 2234, subdivision (e), in that Respondent was dishonest and misleading in his communication with the public and potential patients. The circumstances are as follows:
- 36. Respondent's online presence indicates that he is a Diplomate of the American Podiatric Medical Association. However, no such designation exists in that organization and Respondent is not listed as a member of that organization. Respondent also lists that he is a member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, but there is no record that

⁴ Dorsal displacement of the capital fragment refers to a situation in which the capital fragment moves slightly upwards, towards the top of the foot. This often occurs due to a traumatic injury.

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