

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

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

Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D.

**Physician's & Surgeon's
Certificate No. A 99956**

Case No. 800-2021-079200

Respondent.

DECISION

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

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2026.

IT IS SO ORDERED: December 11, 2025.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

 MD.

**Veling Tsai, M.D., Chair
Panel A**

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 JASON J. AHN
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 253172
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
5 San Diego, CA 92101
P.O. Box 85266
6 San Diego, CA 92186-5266
Telephone: (619) 738-9433
7 Facsimile: (916) 732-7920
E-mail: Jason.Ahn@doj.ca.gov
8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

12 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
13 Against:

14 **RAMIZ NAIM ELIAS, M.D.**
15 **5600 Shasta Daisy Trails**
San Diego, CA 92130-6972

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's**
17 **Certificate No. A 99956**

18 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2021-079200

OAH No. 2024030435

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

19
20 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
21 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

22 **PARTIES**

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

27 ///

28 ///

2. Respondent Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Nicole Irmer, Esq., whose address is: 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1060 San Diego, CA 92103-6627.

3. On or about May 4, 2007, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 99956 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200, and will expire on October 31, 2026, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. On February 8, 2024, Accusation No. 800-2021-079200 was filed before the Board. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on or about February 8, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

On October 9, 2024, First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on October 9, 2024. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

5. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with his counsel, and fully 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 First Amended 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;

1 and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable
2 laws.

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

5 CULPABILITY

6 9. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could
7 establish a prima facie case with respect to Cause 2, specifically, Paragraphs 17(d) and 28(c)
8 only, contained in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200, a copy of which is attached
9 hereto as Exhibit A, and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
10 No. A 99956 to disciplinary action. Respondent makes no admissions and does not agree that, at
11 an administrative hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie case with regards to Causes
12 1, 2 (Paragraphs 17(a)-(c) or 28(a)-(b), or (d)), 3, 4 or 5.

13 10. Respondent agrees that if an accusation is ever filed against him before the Medical
14 Board of California, Cause 2, specifically, Paragraphs 17(d) and 28(c) only, contained in First
15 Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200 shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by
16 Respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving
17 Respondent in the State of California.

18 11. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 99956 is
19 subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth
20 in the Disciplinary Order below.

21 CONTINGENCY

22 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California.
23 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical
24 Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and
25 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the
26 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek
27 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails
28 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary

1 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal
2 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having
3 considered this matter.

4 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

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

8 14. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of
9 probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the
10 Board, Cause 2, specifically, Paragraphs 17(d) and 28(c) only, contained in First Amended
11 Accusation No. 800-2021-079200 shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by
12 Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving
13 Respondent in the State of California.

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

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

20 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

21 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D., holder of
22 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 99956, shall be and hereby is Publicly Reprimanded
23 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2227. This Public Reprimand, which is issued
24 in connection with the allegation as set forth in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200,
25 is as follows:

26 In 2020, Respondent violated professional confidence of Patient A and Patient
27 B, as more fully described in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200.
28

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

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

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

19 2. INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY. Respondent is hereby
20 ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement, including, but not
21 limited to, expert review, amended accusations, legal reviews, investigation(s), in the amount of
22 \$40,000.00 (forty thousand dollars). Costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California.
23 Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of probation.

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

28 The filing of bankruptcy by respondent shall not relieve respondent of the responsibility to

1 repay investigation and enforcement costs, including expert review costs.

2 3. FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply
3 for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health
4 care licensing action agency in the State of California, Cause 2, specifically, Paragraphs 17(d) and
5 28(c) only, contained in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200 shall be deemed to be
6 true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other
7 proceeding seeking to deny or restrict license.

8 4. FAILURE TO COMPLY Any failure by Respondent to comply with terms and
9 conditions of the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order set forth above shall constitute
10 unprofessional conduct and grounds for further disciplinary action.

11 5. FUTURE PROSECUTION CLAUSE. The parties agree that there will be no
12 filing of new charges based on evidence obtained from California Department of Consumer
13 Affairs, Division of Investigation, Health Quality Investigation Unit, Investigation Case Numbers
14 800-2017-029123, 800-2021-079200, and 800-2022-088715.

15 ///

16 ///

17 ///

18 ///

19 ///

20 ///

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

ACCEPTANCE

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

DATED: 09/17/2025

DocuSigned by:

Ramiz Elias

D46D99A7E3E3471...

RAMIZ NAIM ELIAS, M.D.
Respondent

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

DATED: 09/17/2025

DocuSigned by:

Nicole Irmer

D02B504A9B594E3

NICOLE IRMER, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: September 17, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



JASON J. AHN
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

SD2023802838
Stip Settlement and Disc Order - MBC-Osteopathic.docx

Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 800-2021-079200

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 JASON J. AHN
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 253172
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
5 San Diego, CA 92101
P.O. Box 85266
6 San Diego, CA 92186-5266
Telephone: (619) 738-9433
7 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061

8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
Against:

14 **Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D.**
15 **5600 Shasta Daisy Trails**
San Diego, CA 92130-6972

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's**
17 **Certificate No. A 99956,**

18 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2021-079200

OAH No. 2024030435

FIRST AMENDED A C C U S A T I O N

21 **PARTIES**

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

25 2. On or about May 4, 2007, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
26 Certificate No. A 99956 to Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
27 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
28 herein and will expire on October 31, 2026, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

3. This First Amended Accusation supersedes the Accusation filed on February 8, 2024, in the above-entitled matter, and is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All sections referenced are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 2227 of the Code states:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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

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

(b) Gross negligence.

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

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

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

9 (d) Incompetence.

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

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

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

17 6. Section 2263 of the Code states:

18 The willful, unauthorized violation of professional confidence constitutes
19 unprofessional conduct.

20 7. Unprofessional conduct under Business and Professions Code section 2234 is
21 conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is
22 unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an
23 unfitness to practice medicine. (*Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners* (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564,
24 575.)

25 COST RECOVERY

26 8. Business and Professions Code section 125.3 states that:

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

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

(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

1 investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not
2 limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.

3 (d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount
4 of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested
5 pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard
6 to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board
7 may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if
8 the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to
9 subdivision (a).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

9. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A
99956 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,
subdivision (b), of the Code, in that he committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of
Patient A¹, as more particularly alleged hereinafter.

///

¹ References are made to Patient A in order to protect the patient's privacy.

1 10. On or about December 31, 2019, the Board filed a prior Accusation against
2 Respondent in Case No. 800-2017-029123, alleging, in relevant part, that Respondent departed
3 from the standard of care while providing care and/or treatment to four (4) patients, Patient A,
4 Patient B, Patient C, Patient D (prior case).

5 **Patient A**

6 11. In the prior case, allegations involving Respondent's care and treatment of Patient A
7 included, in relevant part: (1) Respondent failed to obtain and/or review Patient A's prior medical
8 records; (2) Respondent failed to properly use a controlled substances agreement; and (3)
9 Respondent failed to use urine toxicology screenings.

10 12. In or around July 2020, while the prior case was pending, Respondent drafted and/or
11 requested and/or authorized another individual(s) to draft, a letter for Patient A to sign, containing
12 the following false statements, among others: (1) "He [Respondent] reviewed my [Patient A's]
13 previous medical records from other providers and from hospital admissions and he [Respondent]
14 discussed that with me [Patient A] including my [Patient A's] medical history and medications
15 prescribed by previous doctors; (2) "He [Respondent] provided me [Patient A] with an opiate
16 treatment agreement from the beginning that I [Patient A] took to review and discuss and have
17 signed that agreement later; and (3) He [Respondent] usually orders laboratory tests frequently
18 and has reviewed with me test results from other providers and hospital admissions he
19 [Respondent] received including Urine drug screen.

20 13. Between in or around July 2020 and June 2021, while the prior case was pending,
21 Respondent requested and/or authorized another patient, Patient X, to approach Patient A and
22 obtain Patient A's signature on the fraudulent letter, in exchange for three hundred dollars
23 (\$300.00).

24 14. On or about June 1, 2021, while the prior case was pending, Respondent, through his
25 then attorney, disclosed to the Complainant, as part of discovery, the fraudulent letter purportedly
26 drafted by Patient A.

27 ///

28 ///

1 15. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A, which
2 included, but was not limited to, the following:

3 (a) Paragraph 9 through 14, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and
4 realleged as if fully set forth herein; and

5 (b) Respondent bribed Patient A in exchange for Patient A's signature on the
6 fraudulent letter.

7 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

8 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

9 16. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
10 No. A 99956 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,
11 subdivision (c), of the Code, in that he committed repeated negligent acts in his care and
12 treatment of Patients A, B, and C, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

13 **Patient A**

14 17. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment of Patient A,
15 which included, but was not limited to, the following:

16 (a) Paragraphs 10 through 15, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and
17 realleged as if fully set forth herein;

18 (b) Respondent bribed Patient A in exchange for Patient A's signature on the
19 fraudulent letter;

20 (c) Respondent attempted to influence the outcome of the prior case by soliciting
21 Patient A to sign the fraudulent letter; and

22 (d) Respondent disclosed Patient A's personal health information to Patient X,
23 without Patient A's authorization.

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 **Patient B**

2 18. Paragraph 10, above, is hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set
3 forth herein.

4 19. In the prior case, allegations involving Respondent's care and treatment of Patient B
5 included, in relevant part that: (1) Respondent failed to prescribe opiates in a safe manner; and
6 that (2) Respondent failed to use urine toxicology screenings.

7 20. In or around July 2020, while the prior case was pending, Respondent drafted and/or
8 requested and/or authorized another individual(s) to draft, a letter for Patient B to sign, containing
9 the following false statements, among others: (1) "Most of my [Patient B's] visits to his
10 [Respondent's] office his [Respondent's] staff used to check records online for my [Patient B's]
11 medications prescribed by all providers (Cures² report) and he discuss that with me often."; (2)
12 "He [Respondent] usually orders laboratory tests for me [Patient B] frequently including Urine
13 drug screen and has explained to me the reason of testing."; (3) "His [Respondent's] staff usually
14 check Cures report online on my arrival and he [Respondent] discuss that report with me, also
15 several times he has discussed the importance of urine drug testing."; (4) "He [Respondent] has
16 referred me [Patient B] to pain management who approved and continued the same medications
17 he [Respondent] was treating me with." ; (5) "He [Respondent] has prescribed for me [Patient B]
18 alternative other medications that are not opiates to control pain but my pain level was the same.";
19 and (6) "He [Respondent] referred me again to a second Orthopedic surgery and I had joint
20 injections."

21 21. Between in or around July 2020 and June 2021, while the prior case was pending,
22 Respondent requested and/or authorized another patient, Patient X, to approach Patient B and
23 obtain Patient B's signature on the second fraudulent letter, described in paragraph 20, above.

24 ///

25 ///

26

27 ² CURES is the Controlled Substances Utilization Review and Evaluation System
28 (CURES), a database of Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substance prescriptions dispensed
 in California, serving the public health, regulatory oversight agencies, and law-enforcement.

1 22. On or about May 28, 2021, while the prior case was pending, Respondent, through his
2 then attorney, disclosed to the Complainant, as part of discovery, the fraudulent letter purportedly
3 drafted by Patient B.

4 **Patient C**

5 23. On or about October 21, 2021, Patient C conducted a video conference with
6 Respondent's office, in lieu of an in-person visit. At that time, Patient C was a seventy-three (73)
7 year-old female, who was complaining of a red bump on the right side of her neck. According to
8 the medical records, it stated, among other things, that the bump was red, itchy, and hard. Patient
9 C was diagnosed with Folliculitis³ and treated with Amoxicillin⁴ and Bactroban⁵ for a week.
10 Patient C was seen by J.W., a nurse practitioner student, and according to the medical records, the
11 plan was "discussed and agreeable with Dr. Elias [Respondent]." Patient C was told to follow up
12 in two (2) weeks, if the problem persisted, without improvement. During this visit, Patient C
13 requested a referral to a dermatologist⁶ because she had skin lesions that were abnormal. Patient
14 C was informed that Respondent wanted Patient C to try ointment first, instead of referring her to
15 a dermatologist. Based on the medical records, it is unclear whether Patient C's visit was an in-
16 person office visit or virtual [via Tele-Video].

17 24. On or about November 4, 2021, [according to Patient C], Patient C again requested
18 Respondent for a referral to a dermatologist, as the ointment was not effective. Respondent again
19 failed to refer Patient C to a dermatologist.

20 25. On or about March 13, 2022, [according to Patient C], Patient C again requested
21 Respondent for a referral to a dermatologist. Respondent again failed to refer Patient C to a
22 dermatologist.

23 _____
24 ³ Folliculitis refers to an infection of one or more of the pockets from which hair grows
[follicles].

25 ⁴ Amoxicillin is used to treat certain infections caused by bacteria.

26 ⁵ Mupirocin [brand name Bactroban] is an antibiotic, which can be used to treat skin
27 infections.

28 ⁶ Dermatologist is a medical doctor who specializes in conditions that affect the skin, hair,
and nails.

26. On or about March 18, 2022, Patient C again requested Respondent for a referral to a dermatologist. Respondent again failed to refer Patient C to a dermatologist.

27. On or about May 26, 2022, Patient C visited a dermatologist, without a referral, as the lesions were bleeding often. Thereafter, Patient C was diagnosed with a Squamous cell carcinoma,⁷ and her tibial lesion⁸ was Basal Cell Carcinoma.⁹

28. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment of Patient B and Patient C, which included, but was not limited to, the following:

(a) Paragraphs 19 through 26 above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein;

(b) Respondent attempted to influence the outcome of the prior case by soliciting Patient B to sign a fraudulent letter;

(c) Respondent disclosed Patient B's personal health information to Patient X, without Patient B's authorization; and

(d) Respondent failed to timely diagnose cancer and/or refer Patient C to a dermatologist.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dishonesty or Corruption)

29. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 99956 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (e), of the Code, in that Respondent committed an act or acts of dishonesty or corruption, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 10 through 22 above, which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

///

⁷ Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the skin is the second most common form of skin cancer, characterized by abnormal, accelerated growth of squamous cells, which are flat cells in the upper (outer) part of the epidermis, which are constantly shed as new ones form.

⁸ Bone lesions are areas of bone that are changed or damaged.

⁹ Basal Cell Carcinoma is a type of skin cancer that begins in the basal cell, which produces new skin cells as old ones die.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violation of Professional Confidence)

30. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 99956 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2263 of the Code, in that Respondent willfully, and without authorization, violated professional confidence, by disclosing to Patient X personal health information of Patients A and B, without their authorization, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 10 through 22 above, which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(General Unprofessional Conduct)

31. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 99956 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234 of the Code, in that he has engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming of a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 10 through 30, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

32. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D., Complainant alleges that on or about December 30, 2021, in a prior disciplinary action titled *In the Matter of the Accusation Against Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D.* before the Medical Board of California, in Case Number 800-2017-029123, Respondent was placed on probation for five (5) years under various terms and conditions, including, but not limited to, controlled substances – partial restriction, controlled substances – maintain records and access to records and inventories, education course, prescribing practices course, medical record keeping course, clinical competence assessment program, and a practice monitor. That decision is now final and is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

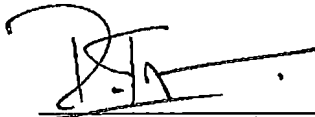
///
///

1 PRAYER

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

- 4 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 99956, issued
5 to Respondent Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D.;
- 6 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D.'s
7 authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 8 3. Ordering Respondent Ramiz Naim Elias, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the
9 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of probation
10 monitoring; and
- 11 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

12
13 DATED: OCT 09 2024

14 
15 REJI VARGHESE
16 Executive Director
17 Medical Board of California
18 Department of Consumer Affairs
19 State of California
20 Complainant