

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

In the Matter of the Accusation)	
Against:)	
)	
)	
Jennifer Elaine Draper, M.D.)	Case No. 800-2015-017058
)	
Physician's and Surgeon's)	
Certificate No. A 96807)	
)	
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 February 21, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED January 24, 2020.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



By: _____
Ronald H. Lewis, M.D., Chair
Panel A

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 VERONICA VO
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 230698
1300 I Street, Suite 125
5 P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
6 Telephone: (916) 210-7508
Facsimile: (916) 327-2247
7

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 Accusation Against:

14 **JENNIFER ELAINE DRAPER, M.D.**
15 **3160 Folsom Blvd #2500**
Sacramento, CA 95816-5219

16
17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
No. A 96807

18 Respondent.
19

Case No. 800-2015-017058

OAH No. 2019061143

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Director of the Medical
24 Board of California (Board). This action was brought by then Complainant Kimberly
25 Kirchmeyer solely in her official capacity.¹ Complainant is represented in this matter by Xavier
26 Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Veronica Vo, Deputy Attorney General.

27 ///

28 ¹ Ms. Kirchmeyer became the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs on October 28, 2019.

1 **CULPABILITY**

2 9. Respondent understands and agrees that, at an administrative hearing, complainant
3 could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in
4 Accusation No. 800-2015-017058, a true and correct copy of which is attached as Exhibit A, and
5 that she has thereby subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 96807 to
6 disciplinary action.

7 10. Respondent agrees that if an accusation is ever filed against her before the Medical
8 Board of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2015-
9 07058 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of that
10 proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

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

14 **RESERVATION**

15 12. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purpose of these
16 proceedings, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other
17 professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or
18 civil proceedings.

19 **CONTINGENCY**

20 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval by the
21 Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted
22 to the Board for its consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Board shall
23 have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Settlement and
24 Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands
25 and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the
26 time the Board considers and acts upon it.

27 14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be null
28 and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Board, except for

1 this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and
2 agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and
3 Disciplinary Order, the Board may receive oral and written communication from its staff and/or
4 the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify
5 the Board, and any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or
6 any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the Board does not, in its
7 discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, with the
8 exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value
9 whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party
10 hereto. Respondent further agree that should this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order be
11 rejected for any reason by the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Board, or any
12 member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this
13 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

14 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

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

24 ///
25 ///
26 ///
27 ///
28 ///

1 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

2 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent Jennifer Elaine Draper, M.D., as holder of
3 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 96807, shall be and hereby is Publicly Reprimanded
4 pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a), subsection
5 (4). This Public Reprimand, which is issues in connection with Respondent's care and treatment
6 of Patient A, as set forth in Accusation No. 800-2015-017058, is as follows:

7 1. **PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

8 Between 2012 and 2015, you failed to properly risk-stratify Patient A before
9 committing her to long term usage of controlled substances and failed to maintain adequate
10 and accurate records in your care and treatment of Patient A, in violation of California
11 Business and Professions Code sections 2234 and 2266, as more fully described in
12 Accusation No. 800-2015-017058, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as
13 Exhibit A.

14 2. **PRESCRIBING PRACTICES COURSE**

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

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

1 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
2 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
3 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

4 3. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE

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

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

19 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
20 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
21 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

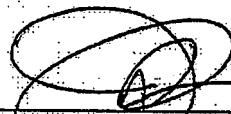
27 ///

28 ///

1 ACCEPTANCE

2 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
3 discussed it with my attorney, Stephen M. Boreman, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the
4 effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 96807. I enter into this
5 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree
6 to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

7
8 DATED: Dec 20, 2019



JENNIFER ELAINE DRAPER, M.D.
Respondent

10
11 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Jennifer Elaine Draper, M.D., the terms
12 and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
13 Order. I approve its form and content.

14 DATED: Dec. 20, 2019



STEPHEN M. BOREMAN, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

16
17 ENDORSEMENT

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

20
21 DATED: December 23, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

22 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
23 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

24
25
26 VERONICA VO
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

27
28 SA2018301244; Draper Revised Stipulation.docx

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2015-017058

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 DEMOND L. PHILSON
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 220220
1300 I Street, Suite 125
5 P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
6 Telephone: (916) 210-7548
Facsimile: (916) 327-2247
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO *Aug 3* 20 *18*
BY *[Signature]* ANALYST

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

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2015-017058

12 **Jennifer Elaine Draper, M.D.**
13 3160 Folsom Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95816-5219

A C C U S A T I O N

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
15 **No. A 96807,**

16 Respondent.

17
18 Complainant alleges:

19 **PARTIES**

20 1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official
21 capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer
22 Affairs (Board).

23 2. On or about August 11, 2006, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
24 Certificate Number A 96807 to Jennifer Elaine Draper, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
25 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
26 herein and will expire on May 31, 2020, unless renewed.

27 ///

28 ///

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

3 “(b) Gross negligence.

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

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

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

14 “(d) Incompetence.

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

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

18 “(g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country without meeting
19 the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of medicine. Section 2314 shall not
20 apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall become operative upon the implementation of the
21 proposed registration program described in Section 2052.5.

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

25 6. Section 2241 of the Code states:

26 “(a) A physician and surgeon may prescribe, dispense, or administer prescription drugs,
27 including prescription controlled substances, to an addict under his or her treatment for a purpose
28 other than maintenance on, or detoxification from, prescription drugs or controlled substances.

1 “(b) A physician and surgeon may prescribe, dispense, or administer prescription drugs or
2 prescription controlled substances to an addict for purposes of maintenance on, or detoxification
3 from, prescription drugs or controlled substances only as set forth in subdivision (c) or in Sections
4 11215, 11217, 11217.5, 11218, 11219, and 11220 of the Health and Safety Code. Nothing in this
5 subdivision shall authorize a physician and surgeon to prescribe, dispense, or administer
6 dangerous drugs or controlled substances to a person he or she knows or reasonably believes is
7 using or will use the drugs or substances for a nonmedical purpose.

8 “(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), prescription drugs or controlled substances may also
9 be administered or applied by a physician and surgeon, or by a registered nurse acting under his
10 or her instruction and supervision, under the following circumstances:

11 “(1) Emergency treatment of a patient whose addiction is complicated by the presence of
12 incurable disease, acute accident, illness, or injury, or the infirmities attendant upon age.

13 “(2) Treatment of addicts in state-licensed institutions where the patient is kept under
14 restraint and control, or in city or county jails or state prisons.

15 “(3) Treatment of addicts as provided for by Section 11217.5 of the Health and Safety
16 Code.

17 “(d)(1) For purposes of this section and Section 2241.5, “addict” means a person whose
18 actions are characterized by craving in combination with one or more of the following:

19 “(A) Impaired control over drug use.

20 “(B) Compulsive use.

21 “(C) Continued use despite harm.

22 “(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a person whose drug-seeking behavior is primarily due
23 to the inadequate control of pain is not an addict within the meaning of this section or Section
24 2241.5.”

25 7. Section 2266 of the Code states:

26 “The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating
27 to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct.”

28 ///

1 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Gross Negligence)**

3 8. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined
4 by section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code, in that respondent committed gross negligence in
5 her care and treatment of Patient A¹. The circumstances are as follows:

6 9. On or about September 21, 2015, the Medical Board of California (Board) received
7 an online complaint from complainant, Patient A's sister, regarding Respondent's treatment of
8 Patient A. The complaint alleged that Patient A was a drug addict who liked "downers" and that
9 she had been seeing Respondent for years. The complaint alleged that Respondent was aware
10 Patient A was a drug addict, but continued to prescribe controlled substances to Patient A despite
11 that knowledge. The complainant alleged she sent a letter return receipt/certified mail to
12 Respondent on January 18, 2015, expressing her concerns regarding Respondent's treatment of
13 Patient A. The content of the January 18, 2015, letter to Respondent was included in the online
14 complaint from complainant.

15 10. Respondent initially saw Patient A in 2009² for chronic migraine headaches and
16 generalized anxiety and depression. Patient A was prescribed nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory
17 drugs (NSAIDS) and triptans³ for acute abortive care and beta blockers for prophylactic care for
18 her migraines. This regimen was continued by Respondent. Patient A's psychiatrist was treating
19 her depression and anxiety with Seroquel⁴/Celexa⁵/Xanax⁶/Ativan⁷. By the end of 2009,

20 ¹ The patient in the Accusation will be referred to as patient A. The identification of the
21 patient A will be disclosed to the Respondent during discovery.

22 ² Conduct occurring prior to June 21, 2011, is for informational purposes only, and is not
alleged as a basis for disciplinary action.

23 ³ Triptans are a family of tryptamine-based drugs used as abortive medication in the
treatment of migraines and cluster headaches.

24 ⁴ Seroquel (quetiapine fumarate) is a psychotropic agent belonging to a chemical class, the
dibenzothiazepine derivatives. It is used to treat certain mental/mood conditions (such as
schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, sudden episodes of mania or depression associated with bipolar
disorder).

25 ⁵ Celexa (citalopram) is an antidepressant in a group of drugs called selective serotonin
reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). Celexa is used to treat depression.

26 ⁶ Xanax (alprazolam) is a benzodiazepine (ben-zoe-dye-AZE-eh-peen). Alprazolam
affects chemicals in the brain that may be unbalanced in people with anxiety. Xanax is used to
27 treat anxiety disorders, panic disorders, and anxiety caused by depression.

28 ⁷ Ativan (lorazepam) belongs to a group of drugs called benzodiazepines. Lorazepam

1 Respondent had changed her benzodiazepine to Clonazepam due to its safer profile and longer
2 duration of action, 0.5mg twice daily.

3 11. In February 2010, Patient A had bariatric abdominal surgery for obesity, and she was
4 treated for post-operative pains with hydrocodone⁸ and oxycodone⁹ by the surgical staff. NSAIDS
5 were avoided due to concerns with complications of bariatric surgery. Her abdominal pains
6 became chronic, and patient requested different pain medication for better control.

7 12. In August of 2010, Respondent tried Tramadol¹⁰ for 1 to 2 weeks without success.
8 Darvon¹¹ was tried by end of August without any improvement. Patient A eventually went back
9 to using Norco (hydrocodone) by end of September. In early November 2010, patient A asked for
10 early refills of Norco due to worsening of back pains from motor vehicle accident. On November
11 5, 2010, without reviewing the Urgent Care records of the accident, Respondent granted early
12 refill of #90 tablets of Norco. After the patient A's clinic visit the following week, Respondent
13 again refilled early another Norco prescription on 11/22/2010 at #90. Patient A again received an
14 early Norco refill from another physician in the clinic on 12/7/2010 at quantity #30. Respondent
15 refilled another Norco prescription on 12/15/2010 at quantity of #60. In totality, the patient
16 received 270 tablets of Norco within five (5) weeks for her motor vehicle accident back pains.
17 Clonazepam¹² prescription was also continued by Respondent for the rest of 2010 for patient A's
18 anxiety and insomnia.

19 13. In June 7, 2011, Patient A had a cholecystectomy because of her chronic abdominal
20 pains and was discharged with Percocet (oxycodone) and Dilaudid (hydromorphone)¹³ by surgical

21 affects chemicals in the brain that may be unbalanced in people with anxiety. Ativan is used to
22 treat anxiety disorders.

23 ⁸ Hydrocodone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code
24 section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code
25 section 4022.

26 ⁹ Oxycodone, brand name OxyContin, is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to
27 Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
28 Business and Professions Code section 4022.

¹⁰ Tramadol is a narcotic-like pain reliever. Tramadol is used to treat moderate to severe
pain.

¹¹ Darvon (propoxyphene) is a narcotic (opioid) analgesic drug class prescribed to treat
mild to moderate pain.

¹² Clonazepam is an anti-anxiety medication in the benzodiazepine family.

¹³ Hydromorphone, brand name Dilaudid, is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant

1 staff. A topical pain patch was later added by Respondent for incisional pains. Throughout most
2 of 2011, patient A continued to have persistent headaches requiring Norco therapy for pain
3 control. A pain care agreement was signed by patient A. Patient A was now routinely following
4 up with a neurologist. Prophylactic therapy¹⁴ with verapamil¹⁵ was increased without much
5 improvement. Respondent also tried gabapentin¹⁶ therapy with minimal benefits.

6 14. In August 2011, Patient A attempted to refill her Norco prescription early, but it was
7 denied by Respondent. However, by the end of August, Respondent had increased the quantity of
8 Norco to 120 tablets per month (instead of #90).

9 15. In December 2011, methadone¹⁷ at 5mg twice daily was also added to Patient A's
10 prescription medications to try to optimize management of her chronic headaches. This
11 medication had to be discontinued after less than a month of therapy due to over-sedation. Patient
12 A was also evaluated by Pain Management staff for injections to reduce her headaches. The
13 Neurology staff also tried intravenous ancillary therapy like Raskin protocol¹⁸ for her chronic
14 headaches without improvement.

15 16. In August 2012, Patient A again tried to ask for early refill of her Norco medication
16 but it was denied. Further diagnostic evaluation including brain MRI and lumbar puncture were
17 all normal. After consultation with patient A's neurologist, Respondent referred the patient to
18 tertiary University of California San Francisco's Headaches clinic for further therapy. In late
19
20

21 to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b), and a dangerous drug pursuant to
22 Business and Professions Code section 4022.

23 ¹⁴ Prophylactic treatment constitutes an important aspect of migraine management and
24 includes avoidance of trigger factors and life style advice followed by consideration of
25 medications.

26 ¹⁵ Verapamil is used to treat high blood pressure. Lowering high blood pressure helps
27 prevent strokes, heart attacks, and kidney problems. Verapamil belongs to a class of drugs known
28 as calcium channel blockers. It works by relaxing blood vessels so blood can flow more easily.

¹⁶ Gabapentin is a medication used to treat epilepsy, neuropathic pain, hot flashes, and
restless legs syndrome.

¹⁷ Methadone is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code
section 11055, subdivision (c), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code
section 4022.

¹⁸ The raskin protocol is a treatment for severe migraines. It is the intravenous
administration of Dihydroergotamine a medication for migraines.

1 2012, Respondent also started the patient on Dilaudid (hydromorphone) 4mg 4 times as needed
2 daily for headaches and on Soma¹⁹ for neck spasm.

3 17. Patient A's functionality and headaches seemed to improve with Dilaudid and
4 Lyrica²⁰. By August 2013, Patient A was on Dilaudid 8mg 2 times daily as needed. However, she
5 was no longer seeing her neurologist.

6 18. Patient A entered an opioid detoxification program at the request of University of
7 California San Francisco's Headaches clinic staff to get off opiates so that they could adequately
8 evaluate and manage her chronic headaches. By early February 2014, patient A had been off
9 opiate medications for at least a month. Urine drug testing showed no traces of opioids.

10 19. In February 2014, Patient A was given 20 tablets of Norco for foot fracture.

11 20. In July 2014, Respondent prescribed patient A Tramadol for her concussion
12 headaches and neck spasms from a motor vehicle accident. This medication was initially meant to
13 be temporary only, but it became a regular monthly prescription for the patient at quantity of 30
14 to 45 tablets per month. Soma, which was initially started in early 2013 for headaches and neck
15 spasm, was also continued throughout 2014 and majority of 2015. Patient A tried to refill
16 Tramadol early in August and October 2014, but both requests were denied by Respondent.
17 However, patient A was successful in refilling Tramadol and Soma early in December 2014 with
18 the excuse of stolen purse and lost medication. This early refill was authorized by Respondent's
19 colleague in her absence.

20 21. On or around January 18, 2015, patient A's sister sent a letter return receipt/certified
21 mail to Respondent expressing her concerns regarding Respondent's treatment and prescribing of
22 Tramadol and Soma to Patient A because she was an addict. The letter described that patient A
23 had multiple emergency room visits for drug overdoses and that the patient would be entering
24 drug rehabilitation program that same month. Patient A's sister alleged that she received a return

25 ¹⁹ Soma is the brand name for Carisoprodol, a Schedule IV controlled substances pursuant
26 to 21 C.F.R. § 1308, and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section
27 4022. Soma is a muscle relaxer that blocks pain sensations between the nerves and the brain.
Soma is used together with rest and physical therapy to treat skeletal muscle conditions such as
28 pain or injury.

²⁰ Lyrica (pregabalin) is an anti-convulsant (seizure) medicine and considered by many to
be a pain relief medication.

1 receipt confirming the delivery of the letter to Respondent. Even after Respondent received the
2 letter, Respondent continued to prescribe controlled substances to Patient A. The online
3 complaint alleged that Patient A's sister found a vial of Tramadol prescribed by Respondent dated
4 September 1, 2015, for 45 pills. Patient A's sister alleged she was concerned about Respondent's
5 continued prescriptions of controlled substances to Patient A after notice to Respondent that they
6 were used and abused by Patient A resulting in two previous overdoses as described in the
7 January 18, 2015, letter.

8 22. Respondent reached out to Patient A to schedule an office visit to discuss these
9 addiction concerns. Respondent informed Patient A that there would be no further refills of Soma
10 or Tramadol until there was a face to face meeting in the clinic. Despite these warnings, Patient A
11 was still able to refill Soma and Tramadol at the pharmacy for the next 3 to 4 months (original
12 prescriptions from 1/2015 had 2 refills each). Patient A was finally seen in the clinic on June 19,
13 2015, for leg pains. New prescriptions of Soma and Tramadol were written by Respondent with
14 no refills.

15 23. In July 2015, Respondent received information from Sutter Hospital about Patient A's
16 possible drug overdose emergency room visits.

17 24. In September and October of 2015, Patient A was seen in the clinic and new
18 prescriptions of Soma and Tramadol were written by Respondent. The last original prescription
19 for Soma was written during an October 5, 2015 visit with no refills. Shortly after, Patient A
20 moved to Florida to temporarily live with her mother.

21 25. On October 29, 2015, Respondent phoned in Soma and Tramadol prescriptions to a
22 pharmacy in Florida. In November of 2015, Patient A asked Respondent again to phone in Soma
23 medications to Florida, but Respondent felt uncomfortable due to the patient's addiction history.
24 According to Respondent's own summary of care, she refilled the Soma medication twice more in
25 January and February of 2016 via telephone encounter.

26 ///


27 ///

28 ///

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

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

DATED: August 3, 2018


KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

SA2018301244
33411834.docx