

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

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

Nadine Evadne Graven, M.D.

Physician's & Surgeon's
Certificate No G79068

Respondent

Case No. 800-2017-032287

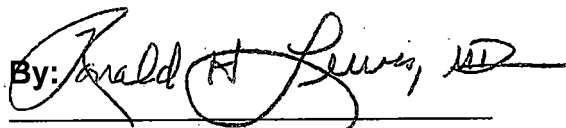
DECISION

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 September 16, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED August 17, 2020.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By: 

Ronald H. Lewis, M.D., Chair
Panel A

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 MARY CAIN-SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 ALICE W. WONG
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 160141
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
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Attorneys for Complainant
7

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-032287

13 **NADINE EVADNE GRAVEN, M.D.**
14 **603 Seagaze Dr., #520**
Oceanside, CA 92054-3005

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G**
16 **79068**

17 Respondent.

18
19 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
20 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Director of the Medical
23 Board of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is
24 represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Alice
25 W. Wong, Deputy Attorney General.

26 2. Respondent Nadine Evadne Graven, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
27 proceeding by attorney Barry C. Marsh, whose address is: 12901 Saratoga Avenue
28 Saratoga, CA 95070-9988.

1 connection with the allegations relating to Respondent's care and treatment of Patient A, as set
2 forth in Accusation No. 800-2017-032287.

3 **B. EDUCATION COURSE**

4 Within 120 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in
5 18 hours of education course(s) in fetal heart tracing, approved in advance by the Board or its
6 designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider with any information and
7 documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate
8 in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course not later than nine (9)
9 months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully complete any other
10 component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The fetal heart tracing course shall be
11 at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME)
12 requirements for renewal of licensure.

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

18 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
19 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the 18 hours of fetal heart
20 tracing course(s), or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision,
21 whichever is later.

22 Respondent understands that failure to submit and/or complete the 18 hours of fetal heart
23 tracing course(s), as set forth above, would constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for
24 further disciplinary action. If Respondent fails to enroll, participate in, or successfully complete
25 the fetal heart tracing course(s) within the designated time period, Respondent shall receive a
26 notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3)
27 calendar days after being so notified.

28 In consideration for her agreement to complete the fetal heart tracing course(s), as set forth

1 above, Respondent shall be publicly reprimanded as set forth in the public letter of reprimand, as
2 set forth above in Paragraph 14(A).

3 ACCEPTANCE

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

9
10 DATED: 05/14/2020 Nadine E Graven MD
11 NADINE EVADNE GRAVEN, M.D.
12 Respondent

13 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Nadine Evadne Graven, M.D. the terms
14 and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
15 Order. I approve its form and content.

16 DATED: 5/15/2020 Barry C Marsh
17 BARRY C. MARSH
18 Attorney for Respondent

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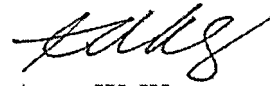
ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: 6/1/2020

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
MARY CAIN-SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General


ALICE W. WONG
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

SF2018201614

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2017-032287

1 XAVIER BECERRA
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2 MARY CAIN-SIMON
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Attorneys for Complainant

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO Dec. 11 20 18
BY S. SIMON ANALYST

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-032287

13 **Nadine Evadne Graven, M.D.**
14 **476 E Campbell Avenue**
Campbell, CA 95008

ACCUSATION

15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
16 **No. G 79068,**

17 Respondent.

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19 Complainant alleges:

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21 **PARTIES**

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

25 2. On or about June 8, 1994, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
26 Certificate Number G 79068 to Nadine Evadne Graven, 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 December 31, 2019, unless renewed.

1 JURISDICTION

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

4 4. Section 2004 of the Code states:

5 "The board shall have the responsibility for the following:

6 "(a) The enforcement of the disciplinary and criminal provisions of the Medical Practice
7 Act.

8 "(b) The administration and hearing of disciplinary actions.

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

11 "(d) Suspending, revoking, or otherwise limiting certificates after the conclusion of
12 disciplinary actions.

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

15 "(f) Approving undergraduate and graduate medical education programs.

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

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

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

20 5. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the
21 Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed
22 one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other
23 action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

24 6. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

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

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1 FACTS

2 7. At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent was a licensed physician practicing in
3 Campbell, California.

4 8. Patient A,¹ a 29-year old female, with an expected due date of February 10, 2015, was
5 under the prenatal care of Respondent, an obstetrician/gynecologist. On February 11, 2015, at
6 approximately 9:00 a.m., Patient A presented to Labor & Delivery at El Camino Hospital, with
7 complaints of frequent contractions and possible spontaneous rupture of membranes earlier in the
8 morning.

9 9. Fetal heart rate monitoring was initiated. Between 9:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., there
10 were various decelerations² noted and decelerations with bradycardia.³ Patient A received an
11 epidural⁴ at approximately 11:00 a.m. Between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., late decelerations and
12 bradycardias continued intermittently. The fetal heart tracing during this time period included
13 Category III⁵ on the fetal monitor strip.⁶

14 10. Respondent arrived at the hospital shortly after 12:30 p.m. to undertake the care of
15 Patient A. Respondent ordered amnioinfusion⁷ in an effort to improve the fetal heart rate.
16 Between 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., there were more bradycardias with late decelerations,
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18 ¹ The patient is designated in this document as Patient A to protect the patient's privacy.
19 Respondent knows the name of the patient and can confirm the patient's identity through discovery.

20 ² Decelerations are temporary drops in the fetal heart rate.

21 ³ Fetal bradycardia refers to an abnormally low fetal heart rate.

22 ⁴ Epidural is a type of anesthetic injected in the lower back region to produce loss of sensation
23 given to women during labor for pain relief.

24 ⁵ Three-tier fetal heart rate interpretation system: Category I (normal), Category II
(indeterminate), and Category III (abnormal).

25 ⁶ Electronic fetal monitoring continuously record the unborn baby's heart rate and graphs it on a
26 piece of paper (fetal monitor strip).

27 ⁷ Amnioinfusion is a method in which isotonic fluid is instilled into the amniotic cavity in order to
28 correct fetal heart rate changes thought to be caused by compression of the umbilical cord (variable
decelerations).

1 indicative of Category III. Respondent ordered Nitroglycerin⁸ to help improve the fetal heart rate.
2 Between 2:10 p.m. and 2:20 p.m., there were late decelerations with more bradycardias,
3 indicative of Category III strips. A fetal scalp electrode⁹ was placed at this time. More
4 decelerations and long bradycardias continued between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

5 11. There was a large terminal bradycardia recorded on the fetal monitoring strip at 3:00
6 p.m. Respondent made the decision to transfer Patient A to the operating room for emergency
7 cesarean section at 3:10 p.m. In the operating room, the fetal heart rate monitor showed a
8 terminal bradycardia at 3:14 p.m. Respondent delivered a 9 lb. 7 oz. baby¹⁰ at 3:21 p.m. The
9 baby was very depressed with low Apgar scores¹¹ of 1, 0, 2 and 3.

10 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

11 **(Unprofessional Conduct: Gross Negligence and/or Repeated Negligent Acts)**

12 12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(b) and/or 2234(c) of
13 the Code in that Respondent's overall conduct, acts, and omissions, with regard to Patient A
14 constitute gross negligence and/or repeated negligent acts, as described above including, but not
15 limited to, the following:

- 16 A. Respondent failed to recognize the fetus was in severe distress requiring emergency
17 intervention shortly after Respondent's arrival at the hospital.
- 18 B. Respondent failed to deliver the baby in a timely fashion after she arrived at the hospital
19 to undertake the care of Patient A.
- 20 C. Respondent failed to identify the fetus as large for gestational age.

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24 ⁸ Nitroglycerin is administered intravenously to relax the uterus.

25 ⁹ Fetal scalp electrode is a spiral wire placed directly on the fetal scalp to check the fetal heart rate.

26 ¹⁰ The term "fetal macrosomia" is used to describe a newborn with a birth weight of more than 8
lbs, 13 ounces (4,000 grams). Fetal macrosomia may complicate vaginal delivery.

27 ¹¹ Apgar score is a measure of the physical condition of a newborn infant obtained by adding
28 points (2, 1, or 0) for heart rate, respiratory effort, muscle tone, response to stimulation, and skin
coloration. A score of ten represents the best possible condition.

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PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 79068, issued to Respondent;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent's authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Respondent, if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED:

~~December 11, 2018~~


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

SF2018201614