

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Norvelle A. Harris, M.D.

Case No. 800-2016-022834

Physician's and Surgeon's  
Certificate No. A 17446

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 December 11, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED: November 12, 2020.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



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

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 CHRISTINE A. RHEE  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 295656  
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800  
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6 San Diego, CA 92186-5266  
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2016-022834

14 **NORVELLE A. HARRIS, M.D.**  
15 **4910 Halifax Road**  
**Temple City, CA 91780**

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND  
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
17 **No. A17446,**

18 Respondent.

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. William Prasifka (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 Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Christine A. Rhee,  
26 Deputy Attorney General.

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1 2. Respondent Norvelle A. Harris, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding  
2 by attorney Gregory D. Werre, Esq., whose address is: 1230 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 450,  
3 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

4 3. On or about July 1, 1957, the Board issued Physician’s and Surgeon’s Certificate No.  
5 A17446 to Norvelle A. Harris, M.D. (Respondent). Physician’s and Surgeon’s Certificate No.  
6 A17446 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No.  
7 800-2016-022834, and will expire on February 28, 2021, unless renewed.

8 **JURISDICTION**

9 4. Accusation No. 800-2016-022834 was filed before the Board, and is currently  
10 pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were  
11 properly served on Respondent on August 5, 2020. Respondent timely filed her Notice of  
12 Defense contesting the Accusation.

13 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2016-022834 is attached as Exhibit A and  
14 incorporated by reference herein.

15 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

16 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the  
17 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2016-022834. Respondent has also carefully read,  
18 fully discussed with her counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and  
19 Disciplinary Order.

20 7. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a  
21 hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine  
22 the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right  
23 to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of  
24 documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other  
25 rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

26 8. Having had the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and  
27 intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

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1 CULPABILITY

2 9. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could  
3 establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation  
4 No. 800-2016-022834, and that she has thereby subjected her license to disciplinary action.

5 10. Respondent agrees that if she ever petitions for early termination or modification of  
6 probation, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of probation, all of the charges and  
7 allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2016-022834 shall be deemed true, correct and fully  
8 admitted by Respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding  
9 involving Respondent in the State of California.

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

13 CONTINGENCY

14 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California.  
15 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical  
16 Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and  
17 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the  
18 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek  
19 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails  
20 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary  
21 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal  
22 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having  
23 considered this matter.

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

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1 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that  
2 the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter  
3 the following Disciplinary Order:

4 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

5 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A17446 issued  
6 to Respondent NORVELLE A. HARRIS, M.D., is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed  
7 and Respondent is placed on probation for thirty-five (35) months from the effective date of the  
8 Decision with the following terms and conditions:

9 1. **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES - TOTAL RESTRICTION.** Respondent shall not  
10 order, prescribe, dispense, administer, furnish, or possess any controlled substances as defined in  
11 the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

12 Respondent shall not issue an oral or written recommendation or approval to a patient or a  
13 patient's primary caregiver for the possession or cultivation of marijuana for the personal medical  
14 purposes of the patient within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 11362.5.

15 If Respondent forms the medical opinion, after an appropriate prior examination and a  
16 medical indication, that a patient's medical condition may benefit from the use of marijuana,  
17 Respondent shall so inform the patient and shall refer the patient to another physician who,  
18 following an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication, may independently issue a  
19 medically appropriate recommendation or approval for the possession or cultivation of marijuana  
20 for the personal medical purposes of the patient within the meaning of Health and Safety Code  
21 section 11362.5. In addition, Respondent shall inform the patient or the patient's primary  
22 caregiver that Respondent is prohibited from issuing a recommendation or approval for the  
23 possession or cultivation of marijuana for the personal medical purposes of the patient and that  
24 the patient or the patient's primary caregiver may not rely on Respondent's statements to legally  
25 possess or cultivate marijuana for the personal medical purposes of the patient. Respondent shall  
26 fully document in the patient's chart that the patient or the patient's primary caregiver was so  
27 informed. Nothing in this condition prohibits Respondent from providing the patient or the

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1 patient's primary caregiver information about the possible medical benefits resulting from the use  
2 of marijuana.

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

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

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

20 3. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective  
21 date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping approved in  
22 advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider  
23 with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent.  
24 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course  
25 not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully  
26 complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The medical  
27 record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing  
28 Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

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

6 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its  
7 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than  
8 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

9 4. NOTIFICATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the  
10 Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the  
11 Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to  
12 Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine,  
13 including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief  
14 Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to  
15 Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15  
16 calendar days.

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

18 5. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE  
19 NURSES. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and  
20 advanced practice nurses.

21 6. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules  
22 governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court  
23 ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.

24 7. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations  
25 under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been  
26 compliance with all the conditions of probation.

27 Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end  
28 of the preceding quarter.

1           8.    GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

2           Compliance with Probation Unit

3           Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

4           Address Changes

5           Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and  
6 residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such  
7 addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no  
8 circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business  
9 and Professions Code section 2021, subdivision (b).

10          Place of Practice

11          Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place  
12 of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed  
13 facility.

14          License Renewal

15          Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's  
16 license.

17          Travel or Residence Outside California

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

21          In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice,  
22 Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of  
23 departure and return.

24          9.    INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE. Respondent shall be  
25 available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the  
26 probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.

27          10. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or  
28 its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than



1 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is  
2 defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and  
3 Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct  
4 patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If  
5 Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall  
6 comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training  
7 program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-  
8 practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of  
9 probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while  
10 on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be  
11 considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a  
12 period of non-practice.

13 In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar  
14 months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Boards's Special  
15 Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program  
16 that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model  
17 Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

18 Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years.

19 Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

20 Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve  
21 Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the  
22 exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws;  
23 General Probation Requirements; and Quarterly Declarations.

24 11. COMPLETION OF PROBATION. Respondent shall comply with all financial  
25 obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the  
26 completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall  
27 be fully restored.

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1           12. VIOLATION OF PROBATION. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition  
2 of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the  
3 Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and  
4 carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation,  
5 or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have  
6 continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until  
7 the matter is final.


8           13. LICENSE SURRENDER. Following the effective date of this Decision, if  
9 Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy  
10 the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender her license. The  
11 Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in  
12 determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate  
13 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent  
14 shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its  
15 designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject  
16 to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the  
17 application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

18           14. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated  
19 with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which  
20 may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of  
21 California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar  
22 year.


23           15. FUTURE ADMISSIONS CLAUSE. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for  
24 a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care  
25 licensing action agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in  
26 Accusation No. 800-2016-022834 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by  
27 Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or  
28 restrict license.

1 **ACCEPTANCE**

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

7  
8 DATED: October 10, 2020   
9 NORVELLE A. HARRIS, M.D.  
Respondent

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

13  
14 DATED: 10/21/2020   
15 GREGORY D. WERRE, ESQ.  
16 Attorney for Respondent

17 **ENDORSEMENT**

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

20 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,  
XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

CHRISTINE A. RHEE  
Deputy Attorney General  
Attorneys for Complainant

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**ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Gregory D. Werre, Esq. I 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 agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_  
NORVELLE A. HARRIS, M.D.  
*Respondent*

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

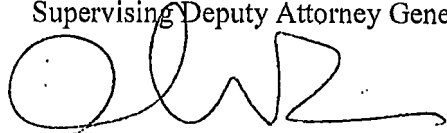
DATED: \_\_\_\_\_  
GREGORY D. WERRE, ESQ.  
*Attorney for Respondent*

**ENDORSEMENT**

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

DATED: 10/27/20

Respectfully submitted,  
XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



CHRISTINE A. RHEE  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

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**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 800-2016-022834**

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 CHRISTINE A. RHEE  
Deputy Attorney General  
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6 San Diego, CA 92186-5266  
Telephone: (619) 738-9455  
7 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061

8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2016-022834

14 **NORVELLE A. HARRIS, M.D.**  
15 **515 W. Foothill Boulevard, Apt. A**  
**Monrovia, CA 91016-2099**

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

16 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
17 **No. A17446,**

Respondent.

18  
19  
20 **PARTIES**

21 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity  
22 as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs  
23 (Board).

24 2. On or about July 1, 1957, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's  
25 Certificate No. A17446 to Norvelle A. Harris, M.D. (Respondent). Physician's and Surgeon's  
26 Certificate No. A17446 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought  
27 herein and will expire on February 28, 2021, unless renewed.

28 ///

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 (Code) unless otherwise  
4 indicated.

5 4. Section 2227 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 ...

22 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states, in pertinent part:

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

26 ...

27 (b) Gross negligence.

28 (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

1 not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the  
2 licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure  
3 constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

4 6. Section 2266 of the Code states: "The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain  
5 adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes  
6 unprofessional conduct."

7 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**  
8 **(Gross Negligence)**

9 7. Respondent has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A17446 to  
10 disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of  
11 the Code, in that she committed gross negligence in the care and treatment of Patient A,<sup>1</sup> as more  
12 particularly alleged hereafter:

13 8. On or about July 28, 2017, Patient A, a 63-year old female, had her first consultation  
14 with Respondent by telephone. At the time, Respondent was working as the medical director of a  
15 clinical laboratory called Sabre Sciences. According to Respondent, Sabre Sciences conducted a  
16 research project that investigated endocrines and their interrelationship with amino acids and  
17 hormones. As the medical director of Sabre Sciences, Respondent oversaw the research  
18 conducted in the lab and evaluated quality control. She also evaluated patients who were  
19 admitted to the research program.

20 9. The Sabre Sciences records for Patient A include a health questionnaire that was  
21 filled out by the patient. On the questionnaire, Patient A reported that she had been on hormone  
22 replacement therapy. She also indicated that she had a family and personal history of cancer.  
23 Patient A also took a screening test for Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

24 10. According to notes from the telephonic consultation on or about July 28, 2017,  
25 Patient A reported that she had been on hormone replacement therapy since 1998. Respondent's

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27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> Patient A's name has been omitted to protect her privacy. Respondent is aware of  
Patient A's identity.



1 diagnoses for Patient A included melanoma, hypothyroid, insulin resistance, and hypoglycemia.  
2 Respondent prescribed estradiol, estriol, and testosterone for Patient A.

3 11. Sabre Sciences' records for Patient A include lab reports dated July 25, 2017 for  
4 specimens collected on May 31, 2017. The lab reports included metabolic and hormone panels.  
5 Sabre Sciences' records for Patient A also include a "Metabonomic HPA Profile." Respondent  
6 failed to document her interpretation of these labs results and how they affected her rationale for  
7 Patient A's treatment.

8 12. On or about August 8, 2017, Respondent documented that Patient A was complaining  
9 of hot flashes. Respondent noted that she would continue prescribing estradiol, estriol, and  
10 testosterone, which was a continuation from Patient A's previous physician, Dr. B. She wrote  
11 that this would be the last prescription renewal without a hormone evaluation. Patient A's  
12 pharmacy was called for these prescriptions. Respondent approved three refills.

13 13. In an interview with Board investigators, Respondent stated that she never met  
14 Patient A in person, and only saw her from a distance one time. Respondent also said that she  
15 had called Dr. B's office to confirm Patient A's prior treatment. Respondent failed to document  
16 this communication with Patient A's prior treatment provider.

17 14. In an interview with Board investigators, Respondent also stated that Patient A was  
18 enrolled in one of Sabre Sciences' research programs and that Patient A had signed the  
19 appropriate consent forms, agreeing to the research protocols. The medical records do not  
20 include these consent forms.

21 15. On or about August 28, 2017, a note in Sabre Sciences' records stated that Patient A  
22 was told that she needed to retest six months from her initial labs which were taken on July 25,  
23 2017.

24 16. On or about January 17, 2018, Respondent called in a refill for Patient A. Once  
25 again, Patient A was told that this was the last prescription before she retested, and that her  
26 current bloodwork was needed.

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1 17. According to Respondent's Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation  
2 System (CURES)<sup>2</sup> report, from on or about August 8, 2017 through January 17, 2018,  
3 Respondent prescribed and Patient A filled compound prescriptions for estradiol, estriol, and  
4 testosterone, despite the notes from August that no more prescriptions would be given without  
5 further testing.

6 18. Respondent committed gross negligence in her care and treatment of Patient A which  
7 includes, but is not limited to, the following:

8 a. Respondent failed to take and/or document Patient A's relevant medical history  
9 or administer an examination;

10 b. Respondent failed to discuss and/or document the risks, benefits, or alternatives  
11 for hormone replacement therapy;

12 c. Respondent failed to obtain informed consent from Patient A about her  
13 participation in a research project;

14 d. Respondent failed to document any communication with Patient A's prior  
15 treating provider;

16 e. Respondent improperly used and failed to properly interpret the laboratory  
17 testing and document her corresponding rationale for treatment; and

18 f. Respondent failed to monitor and regularly follow up with Patient A with  
19 regards to the hormone replacement therapy.

20 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**  
21 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

22 19. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
23 A17446 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,  
24 subdivision (c), of the Code, in that she committed repeated negligent acts in the care and  
25 treatment of Patient A, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 8 through 18, above, which are  
26 hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

27 <sup>2</sup> CURES is a database of Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substance prescriptions  
28 dispensed in California serving the public health, regulatory oversight agencies, and law  
enforcement.

1 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**  
2 **(Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Records)**


3 20. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
4 A17446 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2266, of the  
5 Code, in that she failed to maintain adequate and accurate records for Patient A, as more  
6 particularly alleged in paragraphs 8 through 19, above, which are hereby incorporated by  
7 reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

8 **PRAYER**

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

- 11 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A17446, issued to  
12 Respondent Norvelle A. Harris, M.D.;
- 13 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Norvelle A. Harris, M.D.'s  
14 authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 15 3. Ordering Respondent Norvelle A. Harris, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the  
16 Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
- 17 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

18  
19 DATED: AUG 05 2020

20   
21 WILLIAM PRASIŠKA  
22 Executive Director  
23 Medical Board of California  
24 Department of Consumer Affairs  
25 State of California  
26 Complainant

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