

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

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against

James Yuen-Kuen Yip, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. G 41324

Respondent.

Case No. 800-2017-034077

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and 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 FEB 12 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED JAN 14 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

for Jenna Jones Jenna Jones
William Prasitka Chief of Enforcement
Executive Director

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 STEVE DIEHL
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 State Bar No. 235250
California Department of Justice
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6 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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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. 800-2017-034077

13 **JAMES YUEN-KUEN YIP, M.D.**
1552 Coffee Rd
Modesto, CA 95355-3122
14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G**
41324

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND ORDER**

Respondent.

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18 In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with the public
19 interest and the responsibility of the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer
20 Affairs, the parties hereby agree to the following Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order
21 which will be submitted to the Board for approval and adoption as the final disposition of the
22 Accusation.

23 **PARTIES**

24 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
25 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
26 matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Steve Diehl,
27 Supervising Deputy Attorney General.

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1 **CULPABILITY**

2 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2017-
3 034077, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and
4 Surgeon's Certificate.

5 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of
6 further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual
7 basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline.
8 Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those
9 charges. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for reinstatement of his Physician's and
10 Surgeon's Certificate No. G 41324, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No.
11 800-2017-034077 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of
12 that reinstatement proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving respondent in the State
13 of California

14 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue
15 an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further
16 process.

17 **CIRCUMSTANCES IN MITIGATION**

18 11. Respondent has never been the subject of any disciplinary action in over forty years
19 of practice. He is admitting responsibility at an early stage in the proceedings.

20 **CONTINGENCY**

21 12. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent
22 part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a ...
23 stipulation for surrender of a license."

24 13. Respondent understands that, by signing this stipulation, he enables the Executive
25 Director of the Board to issue an order, on behalf of the Board, accepting the surrender of his
26 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 41324 without further notice to, or opportunity to be
27 heard by, Respondent.

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1 14. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the
2 approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated
3 Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for his
4 consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a
5 reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and
6 Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands
7 and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the
8 time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

9 15. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order
10 shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the
11 Executive Director on behalf of the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full
12 force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to
13 approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive
14 Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the
15 Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the
16 Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future
17 participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving respondent. In the event that the
18 Executive Director on behalf of the Board does not, in his discretion, approve and adopt this
19 Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it
20 shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied
21 upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees
22 that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason
23 by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the
24 Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review,
25 discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or
26 of any matter or matters related hereto.

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1 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

2 16. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties
3 herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of
4 the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

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

8 18. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the
9 Executive Director of the Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by
10 Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

11 **ORDER**

12 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 41324, issued
13 to Respondent James Yuen-Kuen Yip, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

14 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the
15 acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline
16 against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part
17 of Respondent's license history with the Board.

18 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a physician and surgeon in
19 California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

20 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was
21 issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.

22 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in
23 the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must
24 comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or
25 surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations
26 contained in Accusation No. 800-2017-034077 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted
27 by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
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5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation, No. 800-2017-034077 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

ACCEPTANCE

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

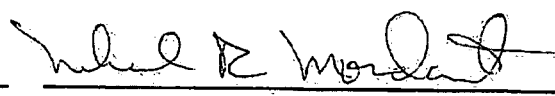
DATED: 10/14/2020



JAMES YUEN-KUEN YIP, M.D.
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent James Yuen-Kuen Yip, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 10/14/20



Attorney for Respondent

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ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: 10/22/20

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California



STEVE DIEHL
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2017-034077

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 STEVE DIEHL
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3 State Bar No. 235250
2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5090
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7 **BEFORE THE**
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10 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-034077

12 **JAMES YUEN-KUEN YIP, M.D.**
1552 Coffee Rd
13 Modesto, CA 95355-3122

A C C U S A T I O N

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
15 **No. G 41324,**

Respondent.

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18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity
20 as the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer
21 Affairs (Board).

22 2. On or about December 10, 1979, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
23 Certificate Number G 41324 to James Yuen-Kuen Yip, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and
24 Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought
25 herein and will expire on February 28, 2021, unless renewed.

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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:

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

27 **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

28 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

1 separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute
2 repeated negligent acts.

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

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

11 (d) Incompetence.

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

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

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

20 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

21 6. On or about May 12, 2015, Patient A presented at a hospital in Modesto, California,
22 complaining of headache, right upper quadrant pain, and blood pressure of 130/80. The patient
23 was 30 weeks pregnant. She had two prior pregnancies that were complicated by preterm labor
24 and delivery, pregnancy induced hypertension and placental abruption, with deliveries by
25 cesarean section. The patient had been followed with regular prenatal care at a county-operated
26 health facility, and had blood pressures ranging from 100-114/61-66 both in-office and at home.
27 The patient was evaluated by the family practice resident on-call at the hospital, who confirmed
28 the pregnancy at 30 weeks gestation, started fetal monitor tracing, and ordered preeclamptic labs.
The fetal heart tracing at 7:32 p.m. showed category 1 (normal) tracing, with a baseline of 150
with accelerations. Respondent was assigned coverage for obstetric patients who were followed
by the county-operated health facility, and was called.

7. By telephone, Respondent ordered a pregnancy-induced hypertension (PIH) lab
panel, and continued monitoring the patient's blood pressure and the fetal tracing. At 10:00 p.m.,
the patient had uterine contractions, and the fetal heart rate was 150, with some variable

1 decelerations, which placed the tracings in category 2 (indeterminate.) At 10:37 p.m., the patient
2 was given terbutaline to stop contractions. The PIH lab values came back normal, and the urine
3 protein was negative. Because of the category 2 tracing, the on-call family practice resident
4 performed a biophysical profile of the patient, which was 4/8 (borderline.) Respondent was
5 called at home again and informed of these results. Respondent changed his plan from
6 observation to admission with the diagnosis of preterm labor, possible pregnancy induced
7 hypertension, and abruption, but Respondent remained at home.

8 8. At 11:25 p.m., the patient was given betamethasone for fetal lung maturity and
9 magnesium sulfate for tocolysis and neurological protection. At 11:50 p.m. the obstetric nurse
10 called Respondent at home. Respondent stated that he could review the patient's records from his
11 home computer, that he was aware of the category 2 tracing, but that he felt no immediate
12 intervention was necessary. Respondent recommended continuing to monitor the fetal tracing,
13 completing the betamethasone and magnesium sulfate treatments, and to repeat the biophysical
14 profile. The repeat biophysical profile was 2/8 (unreassuring.) The fetal monitoring continued as
15 category 2. Ultrasound was ordered, and it was determined that there was no abruption placenta.

16 9. At approximately 1 a.m. on May 13, 2015, the chair of the department called
17 Respondent at home to discuss the risks and benefits of delivery versus observation. At
18 approximately 1:30 a.m., Respondent arrived at the labor and delivery department and assessed
19 the fetal heart tracing. Respondent's assessment was that the tracing was category 2 intermixed
20 with category 1, and that since the patient did not technically have pregnancy-induced
21 hypertension, immediate delivery was unnecessary. Respondent discussed the case with the
22 perinatologist at approximately 1:45 a.m., and planned to repeat the biophysical profile in 6
23 hours, and to continue to watch the fetal monitor. By 2:30-2:50 a.m., the monitor showed absent
24 variability and a category 3 tracing. At 3:10 a.m., the uterine contractions were every 3 to 4
25 minutes, and the fetal heart rate showed variable decelerations with decreased variability. At 3:40
26 a.m., Respondent consulted the chief of the department, who recommended immediate cesarean
27 section. A cesarean section was begun at 3:45 a.m., but the fetus did not survive. The cord blood
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1 was severely acidotic at 6.6. A blood clot on the placental surface was consistent with placental
2 abruption.

3 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

4 **(Gross Negligence)**

5 10. Respondent James Yuen-Kuen Yip, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under
6 section 2234, subdivision (b), in that he engaged in act(s) and/or omission(s) amounting to gross
7 negligence. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 6 through 9, which are incorporated by
8 reference as if fully set forth. Additional circumstances are as follows:

9 11. Women with a live preterm birth, preeclampsia, or abruption placenta in a first
10 pregnancy have increased risk of stillbirth in a subsequent pregnancy. Such pregnancies are high
11 risk and require extra vigilance. Patient A presented at 30 weeks with headache, right upper
12 quadrant pain, and a history of two prior cesarean sections that were preterm, and were
13 complicated with preeclampsia and abruption placenta. Given the patient's history and
14 presentation, the category 3 tracing at approximately 2:30 a.m. required immediate action.
15 Respondent's failure to perform an immediate cesarean section at 2:30 a.m. constitutes gross
16 negligence.

17 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

19 12. Respondent James Yuen-Kuen Yip, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under
20 section 2234, subdivision (c), in that he committed repeated act(s) or omission(s) amounting to
21 negligence. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 6 through 11, which are incorporated
22 by reference as if fully set forth. Additional circumstances are as follows:

23 13. Although Respondent could read the fetal heart tracing at home, he could not
24 physically assess Patient A and provide hands-on guidance to the resident and the patient. Given
25 the patient's presentation, and the category 2 fetal tracing, Respondent's failure to come to the
26 hospital until called by the chair of the department at 1 a.m. constitutes negligence.

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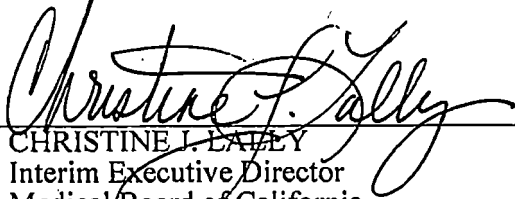
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PRAYER

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 41324, issued to James Yuen-Kuen Yip, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of James Yuen-Kuen Yip, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 3. Ordering James Yuen-Kuen Yip, M.D., 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: MAR 17 2020


CHRISTINE L. LALLY
Interim Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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