

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

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

Cheryl Lea Northey, M.D.

Physician's & Surgeon's
Certificate No C50031

Respondent

Case No. 800-2017-034276

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 March 3, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED February 1, 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By: 

Kristina D. Lawson, J.D., Chair
Panel B

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 MARY CAIN-SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 State Bar No. 113083
4 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000
San Francisco, CA 94102-7004
Telephone: (415) 510-3884
5 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480
Attorneys for Complainant
6

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

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-034276

12 **CHERYL LEA NORTHEY, M.D.**
13 **101 Las Colinas Drive**
Corralitos, CA 95076-0247

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

14
15 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.**
C 50031

16 Respondent.
17

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. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
23 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
24 matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Mary Cain-Simon,
25 Supervising Deputy Attorney General.

26 2. Respondent Cheryl Lea Northey, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding
27 by attorney Thomas Still, of Hinshaw, Marsh, Still & Hinshaw, whose address is: 12901 Saratoga
28 Avenue, Saratoga, California 95070-4110.

1 failed to recognize and appropriately manage the patient's internal bleeding, and delayed
2 returning to the hospital, although no hospitalist was present to provide care. These actions
3 reflected departures from the standard of care.

4 Respondent further agrees to the following conditions as requirements for the issuance of
5 this reprimand:

6 EDUCATION COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision,
7 Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s)
8 or course(s) which shall not be less than 30 hours. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall
9 be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I
10 certified. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be
11 in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.
12 Respondent is to complete the Education course(s) within one year from the date of this decision.
13 Following the completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an
14 examination to test Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of
15 attendance for 55 hours of CME of which 30 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

16 Failure to comply with the Education Course requirement may constitute unprofessional
17 conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

18
19 ACCEPTANCE

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

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26 DATED: 10/14/2020

Cheryl Lea Northey, MD
27 CHERYL LEA NORTHEY, M.D.
28 Respondent

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I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Cheryl Lea Northey, 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: 10-14-2020 
THOMAS STILL
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: November 2, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California

/s/ Mary Cain-Simon

MARY CAIN-SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney
General *Attorneys for Complainant*

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2017-034276

1 XAVIER BECERRA
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2 MARY CAIN-SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO December 11 20 19
BY Anna Roen ANALYST

6 *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. 800-2017-034276

13 **CHERYL LEA NORTHEY, M.D.**
2907 Chanticleer Avenue, 2nd Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95065

ACCUSATION

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
15 **No. C 50031,**

16 Respondent.

17
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 January 17, 1997, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's
23 Certificate No. C 50031 to Cheryl Lea Northey, 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 May 31, 2020, 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 provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the
6 Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed
7 one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other
8 action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

9 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

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

12 ...

13 (b) Gross negligence.

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

17 ...

18 (d) Incompetence.

19 ...

20 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

21 **(Gross Negligence)**

22 6. Respondent has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 50031 to
23 disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of
24 the Code, in that she was grossly negligent in her care and treatment of Patient A,¹ as more
25 particularly alleged hereinafter:

26 ///

27 _____
28 ¹ To protect the privacy of the patient involved, the patient's name has not been included in this
pleading. Respondent is aware of the identity of the patient referred to herein.

1 patient's STAT CBC results and did not inquire of the results at that time. Respondent then
2 ordered a second administration of 5mg of ephedrine and a bolus of normal saline. Sometime
3 thereafter, Respondent drove to the hospital.

4 15. At approximately 12:59 a.m., Patient A had labored breathing and was no longer
5 responsive. A rapid response was called by nursing staff. Respondent arrived at Patient A's
6 room approximately ten (10) minutes later, as the rapid response was in progress. The patient
7 required intubation and was transported to the intensive care unit (ICU).

8 16. At approximately 1:30 a.m., Respondent ordered to crossmatch four (4) units of blood
9 STAT and to begin transfusion.

10 17. At approximately 2:49 a.m., Patient A's heart rate dropped and a "Code Blue" was
11 called. The patient responded to CPR.

12 18. On or about April 21, 2015, Patient A developed hypovolemic shock and acute renal
13 failure. Throughout that day, multiple abdominal ultrasounds revealed a large amount of free
14 fluid in her abdomen, and a CT scan of her pelvis revealed a massive hemoperitoneum.³ Patient
15 A received multiple blood products, including packed red blood cells, platelets, and fresh frozen
16 plasma.

17 19. At approximately 4:45 p.m., Patient A returned to the operating room for an
18 exploratory laparotomy, during which approximately 3000 cc of clots and blood were evacuated.

19 20. At approximately 10:00 p.m., Patient A was emergently transported by helicopter to
20 Stanford Hospital. Patient A received a prolonged course of medical treatment until
21 approximately June 2015, when she was released home.

22 21. Respondent committed gross negligence in her care and treatment of Patient A, which
23 included but was not limited to, the following:

24 A. Failing to recognize the severity of the patient's internal bleeding and failing to
25 actively manage her circulatory volume; and

26 B. Ordering two rounds of ephedrine in a patient presenting with signs and
27 symptoms of shock due to hypovolemia.

28 ³ Hemoperitoneum is the presence of blood in the peritoneal cavity.

1 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

3 22. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
4 C 50031 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,
5 subdivision (c), of the Code, in that she committed repeated negligent acts in her care and
6 treatment of Patient A, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 6 through 21, above, which are
7 incorporated by reference and realleged, as if fully set forth herein.

8 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

9 **(Incompetence)**

10 23. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
11 C 50031 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234,
12 subdivision (d), of the Code, in that she has demonstrated incompetence in her care and treatment
13 of Patient A, by failing to recognize the internal bleeding, and managing the patient's low blood
14 pressure in a postoperative course with ephedrine, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 6
15 through 21 above, which are incorporated by reference and realleged, as if fully set forth herein.

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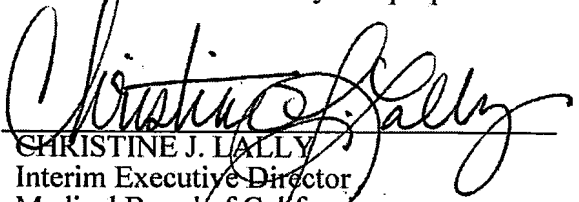
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PRAYER

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 No. C 50031, issued to Respondent, Cheryl Lea Northey, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent, Cheryl Lea Northey, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
3. Ordering Respondent, Cheryl Lea Northey, 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: December 11, 2019


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

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