

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

In the Matter of the Accusation
Against:

David Reese Rummell, M.D.

Case No. 800-2019-060856

Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. G34248

Respondent

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

April 22, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED March 23, 2021.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By: 
William Prasifka
Executive Director

1 XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
2 JANE ZACK SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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6 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

10
11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2019-060856

12 **DAVID REESE RUMMELL, M.D.**
7128 Anjou Creek Circle
13 San Jose, CA 95120
14 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
G34248

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND ORDER**

15
16 Respondent.

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

19 **PARTIES**

20 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
21 California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this
22 matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Jane Zack Simon,
23 Supervising Deputy Attorney General.

24 2. David Reese Rummell, M.D. (Respondent) is representing himself in this proceeding
25 and has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.

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1 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of
2 further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual
3 basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline.
4 Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those
5 charges.

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

9 CONTINGENCY

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

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

22 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that
23 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

24 ORDER

25 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G34248, issued
26 to Respondent David Reese Rummell, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

27 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate and the
28 acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline

1 against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part
2 of Respondent's license history with the Board.

3 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in
4 California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

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

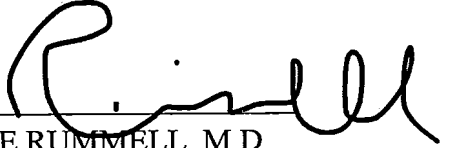
7 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in
8 the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must
9 comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or
10 surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations
11 contained in Accusation No. 800-2019-060856 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted
12 by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

13 5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or
14 petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of
15 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation, No. 800-2019-060856 shall
16 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of
17 Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

18 **ACCEPTANCE**

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

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24 DATED: _____

3/10/21 

25 DAVID REESE RUMMELL, M.D.
26 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: 3/11/2021

Respectfully submitted,
XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California

Jane Zack Simon
JANE ZACK SIMON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2019-060856

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9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
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11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2019-060856

13 **David Reese Rummell, M.D.**
7128 Anjou Creek Circle
San Jose, CA 95120

A C C U S A T I O N

14 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. G34248,

15 Respondent.

16
17 **PARTIES**

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

21 2. On June 20, 1977, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
22 Number G34248 to David Reese Rummell, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's
23 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will
24 expire on April 30, 2022, unless renewed.

25 **JURISDICTION**

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

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

5 5. Section 2234 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board shall take action
6 against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct
7 includes, but is not limited to:

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

10 (b) Gross negligence.

11 (c) Repeated negligent acts.

12 (d) Incompetence.

13 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

14 **(Gross Negligence/Repeated Negligent Acts/Incompetence)**

15 6. Respondent is an anesthesiologist who, for many years, practiced at a hospital. In
16 September 2019, an anesthesia technician notified one of the staff anesthesiologists that
17 Respondent had a practice of using the same syringe for multiple patients. The staff
18 anesthesiologist took steps to verify the accuracy of the report, then notified hospital medical staff
19 administration. An investigation ensued.

20 7. During initial interviews with the hospital's quality assurance team, Respondent
21 acknowledged that it had been his practice of many years to use the same syringe on more than
22 one patient. Respondent explained that he reused syringes to avoid waste and expense, and to
23 save time between surgeries. Respondent stated that he changed the needle on the syringe for
24 each patient, but used the same syringe. Respondent posited that the valve system on the
25 intravenous (IV) lines, location of the medication injection point and use of alcohol swabs
26 rendered his practice safe. Several days later, however, Respondent requested a meeting with the
27 hospital investigators. He recanted his earlier admissions, stating that after thinking it over, he
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1 denied it was his usual practice to reuse syringes. Respondent ultimately resigned from his
2 position with the hospital.

3 8. Respondent was interviewed by the Medical Board's investigators in May 2020. He
4 acknowledged his decades-long practice of reusing syringes on different patients. He reiterated
5 his belief that this practice was acceptable, and recounted that it avoided waste and saved money
6 and time. Respondent stated that he was not aware of any infection transmission resulting from
7 his syringe reuse, a conclusion he based on his practice of following his patients for 24 hours
8 post-operatively via email. When asked about statements made during the hospital inquiry
9 indicating syringe reuse was not his practice, Respondent stated that he was counseled to "muddy
10 the waters" by denying the misconduct.

11 9. Respondent reused syringes over a period of many years. He continued this practice
12 despite the fact that the hospital where he practiced had a written procedure, initiated in April
13 2004 and revised as recently as November 2016, clearly stating that medication from the same
14 syringe cannot be administered to multiple patients even if the needle or cannula on the syringe is
15 changed, and despite the common knowledge and understanding among anesthesiologists that this
16 practice was inappropriate, posed a real risk of infection, and was far outside the standard of care.

17 10. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234 and/or 2234(b) and/or
18 2234(c) and/or 2234(d) in that he engaged in unprofessional conduct and/or was grossly negligent
19 and/or committed repeated acts of negligence and/or demonstrated incompetence by virtue of the
20 following:

21 A. Respondent used the same syringe on more than one patient, thereby exposing
22 patients to an increased risk of infection.

23 B. Respondent reused syringes on more than one patient despite clear written procedures
24 and well-publicized and well-known standards prohibiting such practice.

25 C. Respondent demonstrated a lack of knowledge in his belief that bloodborne
26 pathogens from one patient cannot be transmitted to another patient by syringe reuse, even when
27 done with a change of needles, injection to a distal port and use of valved IV tubing. Respondent
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1 also demonstrated a lack of knowledge in his presumption that all infectious processes would
2 reveal themselves within 24 hours of exposure.

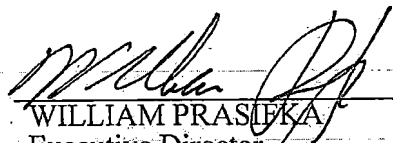
3 D. Respondent made deliberate misrepresentations to the hospital committee
4 investigating his misconduct, for the purpose of benefitting himself, thereby risking compromise
5 of a process designed to promote patient safety.

6 **PRAYER**

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

- 9 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G34248,
10 issued to David Reese Rummell, M.D.;
- 11 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of David Reese Rummell, M.D.'s
12 authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 13 3. Ordering David Reese Rummell, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the
14 costs of probation monitoring; and
- 15 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

16
17 DATED: NOV 25 2020


18 WILLIAM PRASIEKA
19 Executive Director
20 Medical Board of California
21 Department of Consumer Affairs
22 State of California
23 *Complainant*

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