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

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against: **Manjula Bobbala, M.D.** **Physician's & Surgeon's Certificate No A 87444** **Respondent**	**Case No. 800-2018-041844**

DECISION AND ORDER

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 February 23, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED January 24, 2022.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Laurie Rose Lubiano, J.D., Chair
Panel A

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
STEVEN D. MUNI
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
JOHN S. GATSCHET
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Attorneys for Complainant

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

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against: **MANJULA BOBBALA, M.D.** 100 Prison Road Represa, CA 95671 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 87444, Respondent.	Case No. 800-2018-041844 OAH No. 2021020331 **STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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

PARTIES

1. William Prasifka ("Complainant") is the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California ("Board"). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by John S. Gatschet, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Respondent Manjula Bobbala, M.D. ("Respondent") is represented in this proceeding by attorney Chrisman Swanberg, whose address is:

Chrisman Swanberg
CCHCS Office of Legal Affairs, Bldg D-3
P.O. Box 588500
Elk Grove CA, 95758

3. On or about June 4, 2004, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 87444 to Manjula Bobbala, M.D. ("Respondent"). That Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-041844, and will expire on June 30, 2022, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-041844 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent. Respondent waives the Statute of Limitations as it relates to the filing of a First Amended Accusation and hereby agrees that the original Accusation was properly filed on December 4, 2020. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting both the Accusation and the First Amended Accusation.

5. A copy of the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-041844 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-041844. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with her counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

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

8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-041844, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

10. Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima facie* case for the charges in the First Amended Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest those charges.

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

CONTINGENCY

12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter. Respondent hereby waives the Statute of Limitations as set forth in Business and Professions Code section 2230.5 for all purposes as it applies to the facts and circumstances set forth in MBC Case Nos. 800-2018-041844 and 800-2018-041845.

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

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

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

A. PUBLIC REPRIMAND

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. 8744 issues to Respondent Manjula Bobbala, M.D. shall be and is hereby publically reprimanded pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a)(4). This Public Reprimand, which is issued in connection with First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-041844, is as follows:

"On or about June 15, 2017, and September 5, 2017, while treating Patients 1 and 2, you failed to adequately document the patient's medical records as more fully described in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-041844."

B. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE

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

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

Respondent shall successfully complete all coursework and provide proof of completion of the Medical Record Keeping Course to the Board within one year of the effective date of the Decision and Order. This condition shall be monitored by the Probation Department.

C. FAILURE TO COMPLY

If Respondent fails to enroll, participate in, or successfully complete the educational program(s) or course(s), described in conditions B and C, within the designated time period, Respondent shall receive and comply with a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until enrollment or participation in the educational program(s) or course(s) has been completed as required by the express language of the Decision and Order. In addition, failure to successfully complete the education program(s) or course(s) outlined above shall also constitute unprofessional conduct and is grounds for further immediate disciplinary action.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Chrisman Swanberg. 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: 08/26/2021

MANJULA BOBBALA, M.D.
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Manjula Bobbala, 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: 8/24/2021

CHRISMAN SWANBERG
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: 8-27-2021

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
STEVEN D. MUNI
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

JOHN S. GATSCHET
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-041844

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Attorneys for Complainant

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

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against: **Manjula Bobbala, M.D.** 100 Prison Road Represa, CA 95671 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 87444, Respondent.	Case No. 800-2018-041844 **FIRST AMENDED** **ACCUSATION**

PARTIES

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

2. On or about June 4, 2004, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 87444 to Manjula Bobbala, M.D. ("Respondent"). The license was in full force and

effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30, 2022, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

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

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

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

> 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.
>
> ...

6. Section 2266 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

> The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Patient 1[1]

7. On or about June 15, 2017, Patient 1, an inmate at California State Prison-Sacramento, a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facility ("CSP-Sac"), presented at the Triage and Treatment Area ("TTA") at approximately 6:20 p.m. Patient 1 showed evidence of physical assault and trauma in the form of blood and bruising on the left side

[1] Witness names have been removed to protect confidentiality. All witnesses will be fully identified in discovery.

of his face. A TTA nurse performed a brief examination and could not determine if there were any other injuries present. The TTA nurse documented that Patient 1 reported that he had pain to the right side of his forehead and his back, that Patient 1 was laughing while questioned, that Patient 1 had slightly slurred speech, and that Patient 1 responded to all questions. The TTA nurse contacted the on duty physician, Doctor 1, at approximately 6:40 p.m., and provided an assessment of Patient 1.

8. Doctor 1, who was not on site in the TTA, issued orders to have Patient 1 transferred to a local hospital emergency room to receive care and treatment. The Respondent, the Chief Medical Executive at CSP-Sac, was informed of the impending transfer, contacted Doctor 1, and instructed Doctor 1 to first evaluate Patient 1 in person at the TTA prior to Patient 1 being transferred to a local hospital emergency room. According to Doctor 1, the Respondent cancelled his transfer order pending his evaluation of Patient 1. At approximately 7:30 p.m., Doctor 1 evaluated Patient 1 in the TTA. Doctor 1 noted that Patient 1 had alcohol on his breath, slurred speech, cervical neck pain, and a facial droop. At approximately 7:37 p.m., Doctor 1 documented that he contacted the Respondent and informed her of his findings, that the patient had altered mental status, and needed c-spine clearance. Doctor 1 requested that Patient 1 be transferred to a local hospital ER for further evaluation.

9. The Respondent overruled Doctor 1's transfer request and ordered that Patient 1 be evaluated in the TTA for the next four hours. The Respondent issued verbal orders for additional testing including a complete blood count ("CBC"), comprehensive metabolic panel ("CMP") and urine toxicology screen. Doctor 1 documented that he "absolutely disagree(d)" with Respondent's treatment plan. On June 16, 2017, at approximately 12:06 a.m., a nurse documented that he contacted the Respondent and informed the Respondent of Patient 1's current clinical presentation. According to the nurse, the Respondent discharged Patient 1 from the TTA after Patient 1 was determined to be stable and in no apparent distress. On June 16, 2017, at approximately 7:47 a.m., Patient 1 was seen by a nurse in the cell battery and he appeared to be in no acute distress. On June 16, 2017, at approximately 11:25 p.m., Patient 1 was seen at his cell

and he refused to be seen at TTA for follow-up, stating that he had "no complaint, no pain, and no problem walking, I'm good."

10. The Respondent failed to provide any documentation related to Patient 1 in his medical record. The Respondent did not document an assessment and treatment plan for Patient 1. The Respondent did not document why she countermanded Doctor 1's repeated request to transfer Patient 1 to a local emergency room. The Respondent did not delegate to a subordinate a request to document a progress note on her behalf.

Patient 2

11. On or about September 5, 2017, Patient 2, an inmate at CSP-Sac, presented at TTA for further evaluation of persistent asymptomatic hyponatremia. Doctor 1 had previously seen Patient 2 on August 28, 2017, for diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypothyroidism. On or about August 28, 2017, Patient 2 had a low sodium result of 127. On or about September 5, 2017, Doctor 1 confirmed that Patient 2 denied consuming excessive fluids and currently had no symptoms. Doctor 1 determined that Patient 2 needed to be transferred to San Joaquin General Hospital code one for further evaluation of low sodium and issued transfer orders.

12. On September 5, 2017, at approximately 11:20 a.m., a nurse documented that Respondent came to the TTA and examined Patient 2. The nurse documented that the Respondent cancelled Doctor 1's transfer order and ordered that Patient 2 be given saline in the TTA. At approximately 1:41 p.m., a nurse documented that the Respondent was informed of Patient 2's status and Respondent had Patient 2 returned to housing. The nurse documented that Respondent ordered a basic metabolic panel and Patient 2 was informed of the Respondent's plan of care. On September 6, 2017, at approximately 9:58 a.m., the lab result indicated that Patient 2's sodium remained at 127. A nurse documented that they contacted the Respondent and the Respondent ordered that Patient 2 receive saline. Patient 2 refused to receive saline. At approximately 1:55 p.m., a nurse documented that the Respondent requested that Patient 2 come to the clinic for further testing. The nurse documented that Patient 2 refused to see the Respondent and went back to his cell. Patient 2 also refused to take part in any treatment and refused to provide an additional blood test. The nurse documented that the Respondent was made

aware and the Respondent indicated that a new basic metabolic panel would be reoffered to Patient 2 on the morning of September 7, 2017.

13. On September 7, 2017, at approximately 11:38 a.m., Doctor 1 saw Patient 2 in the TTA. Doctor 1 documented that he had requested Patient 2 be transferred to San Joaquin General Hospital on September 5, 2017, but that the Respondent had cancelled his orders. Doctor 1 documented that the Respondent ordered that Patient 2 receive saline and have follow-up labs. Doctor 1 documented that Patient 2's sodium level in the follow-up labs remained at 127. Doctor 1 also documented that Patient 2 refused treatment on September 6, 2017. Doctor 1 examined Patient 2 and determined that Patient 2 should be transferred to San Joaquin General Hospital for further treatment. The Respondent initially cancelled Doctor 1's transfer order but allowed Patient 2 to be transferred when Patient 2 refused further care in the TTA.

14. The Respondent failed to provide any documentation related to Patient 2 in his medical record on September 5, 2017, September 6, 2017, and September 7, 2017. The Respondent did not document an assessment and treatment plan for Patient 2. The Respondent did not document why she countermanded Doctor 1's request to transfer Patient 2 to a San Joaquin General Hospital. The Respondent did not delegate to a subordinate a request to document a progress note on her behalf.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Inadequate and Inaccurate Records)

15. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2266 of the Code in that she kept inaccurate and inadequate medical records during her care and treatment of Patients 1 and 2. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 7 through 14, which are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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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 A 87444, issued to Manjula Bobbala, M.D. ;

2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Manjula Bobbala, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

3. Ordering Manjula Bobbala, 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: SEP 15 2021

WILLIAM PRASIFKA
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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