

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

**In the Matter of the First Amended
Accusation Against:**

George Robert Knull, M.D.

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. G 34669**

Respondent.

Case No.: 800-2018-047852

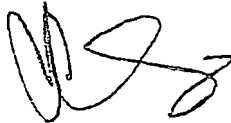
DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement 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 14, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED: March 15, 2022.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



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

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 KAROLYN M. WESTFALL
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
14 Against:

15 **GEORGE ROBERT KNULL, M.D.**
16 **1936 E. Anaheim St.**
Long Beach, CA 90813-3908

17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
No. G 34669,

18 Respondent.

Case No. 800-2018-047852

OAH No. 2021080570

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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 Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Karolyn M. Westfall,
26 Deputy Attorney General.

27 ///

28 ///

1 2. Respondent George Robert Knull, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this
2 proceeding by attorney David M. Balfour, Esq., whose address is: Buchalter APC, 655 W.
3 Broadway, Suite 1600, San Diego, CA 92101.

4 3. On or about July 1, 1977, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
5 G 34669 to George Robert Knull, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
6 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in First Amended
7 Accusation No. 800-2018-047852, and will expire on April 30, 2023, unless renewed.

8 **JURISDICTION**

9 4. First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-047852, which supersedes the Accusation
10 filed on June 25, 2021, was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent.
11 The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent
12 on June 25, 2021. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

13 5. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-047852 is attached hereto as
14 Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

15 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

16 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the
17 charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-047852. Respondent has
18 also carefully read, fully discussed with his counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated
19 Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

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

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

1 CULPABILITY

2 9. Respondent admits that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could establish a
3 *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in First Amended
4 Accusation No. 800-2018-047852, and agrees that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and
5 Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34669 to disciplinary action.

6 10. Respondent further agrees that if he ever petitions for modification or early
7 termination of probation, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against
8 him before the Medical Board of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in First
9 Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-047852 shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by
10 Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving
11 Respondent in the State of California or elsewhere.

12 11. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to
13 discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the
14 Disciplinary Order below.

15 CONTINGENCY

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

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

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 the Respondent, issue and
3 enter the following Disciplinary Order:

4 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

5 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34669 issued
6 to Respondent George Robert Knull, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and
7 Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years from the effective date of this Decision on
8 the following terms and conditions:

9 1. **EDUCATION COURSE.** Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this
10 Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee
11 for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s), which shall not be less than 40 hours
12 per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at
13 correcting areas of deficiency (including but not limited to supervision of mid-level practitioners,
14 infectious diseases, and disease reporting), and shall be Category I certified. The educational
15 program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the
16 Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the
17 completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test
18 Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65
19 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

20 Educational courses completed after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the First
21 Amended Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of
22 the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition for the first year of
23 probation only, if the courses would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the
24 courses been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

25 2. **MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE.** Within 60 calendar days of the effective
26 date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping approved in
27 advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider
28 with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent.

1 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course
2 not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully
3 complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The medical
4 record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing
5 Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

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

11 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
12 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than
13 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

14 3. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of
15 the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that
16 meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1.
17 Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall
18 provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall
19 successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after
20 Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the
21 time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom
22 component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in
23 addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

24 A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the First
25 Amended Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of
26 the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program
27 would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the
28 effective date of this Decision.

1 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its
2 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later
3 than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

4 4. PROHIBITED PRACTICE. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from
5 holding any ownership interest in a medical office or clinic.

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

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

15 6. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE
16 NURSES. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and
17 advanced practice nurses.

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

21 8. INVESTIGATION/ENFORCEMENT COST RECOVERY. Respondent is hereby
22 ordered to reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement, in the amount of
23 \$1,206.25 (one thousand two hundred six dollars and twenty-five cents). Costs shall be payable
24 to the Medical Board of California. Failure to pay such costs shall be considered a violation of
25 probation.

26 Any and all requests for a payment plan shall be submitted in writing by Respondent to the
27 Board.

28 ///

1 The filing of bankruptcy by Respondent shall not relieve Respondent of the responsibility
2 to repay investigation and enforcement costs.

3 9. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations
4 under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been
5 compliance with all the conditions of probation.

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

8 10. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

9 Compliance with Probation Unit

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

11 Address Changes

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

17 Place of Practice

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

21 License Renewal

22 Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's
23 license.

24 Travel or Residence Outside California

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

28 ///

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 ///

1 Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve
2 Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the
3 exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws;
4 General Probation Requirements; Quarterly Declarations; Abstain from the Use of Alcohol and/or
5 Controlled Substances; and Biological Fluid Testing.

6 13. COMPLETION OF PROBATION. Respondent shall comply with all financial
7 obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the
8 completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall
9 be fully restored.

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

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

27 16. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated
28 with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which

1 may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of
2 California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar
3 year.

4 ACCEPTANCE

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

10
11 DATED: 2/7/22

George Robert Knoll
12 GEORGE ROBERT KNULL, M.D.
Respondent

13 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent George Robert Knoll, M.D., the terms and
14 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
15 I approve its form and content.

16
17 DATED: 2/7/22

David M. Balfour
18 DAVID M. BALFOUR, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

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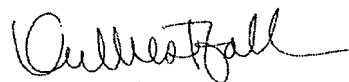
ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: 2/7/22

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



KAROLYN M. WESTFALL
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 800-2018-047852

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 KAROLYN M. WESTFALL
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10 **BEFORE THE**
11 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
13 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

13 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
14 Against:

Case No. 800-2018-047852

FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION

15 **GEORGE ROBERT KNULL, M.D.**
16 **1936 E. Anaheim St.**
Long Beach, CA 90813-3908

17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
No. G 34669,

18 Respondent.

19
20 **PARTIES**

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

24 2. On or about July 1, 1977, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
25 G 34669 to George Robert Knull, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
26 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on
27 April 30, 2023, unless renewed.

28 ///

JURISDICTION

3. This First Amended Accusation, which supersedes the Accusation filed on June 25, 2021, 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 states, in pertinent part:

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

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

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

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

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

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

...

(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.

...

6. Section 2266 of the Code states: 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.

///

1 7. California Code of Regulations, Title 17, section 2500, "Reporting to the Local
2 Health Authority," states, in pertinent part:

3 (a) The following definitions shall govern the interpretation of this Subchapter.

4 ...

5 (4) 'Acute HIV infection' means detectable HIV-1 RNA or p24 antigen in
6 serum or plasma in the setting of a negative or indeterminate HIV-1 antibody test
7 result for patients tested using a currently approved HIV test algorithm, as defined in
8 section 2641.57.

9 (5) 'Case' means (A) a person who has been diagnosed by a health care
10 provider, who is lawfully authorized to diagnose, using clinical judgment or
11 laboratory evidence, to have a particular disease or condition listed in subsection (j);
12 or (B) a person who is considered to have a disease or condition that satisfies the most
13 recent communicable disease surveillance case definitions established by the CDC
14 and/or CSTE; or (C) an animal that has been determined, by a person authorized to do
15 so, to have a disease or condition made reportable by these regulations; or (D) a
16 person who has been diagnosed with HIV infection using a currently approved HIV
17 test algorithm, as defined in section 2641.57.

18 (6) 'Clinical signs' means the objective evidence of disease.

19 (7) 'Clinical symptoms' means the subjective sensation of disease felt by the
20 patient.

21 (8) 'Communicable disease' means an illness due to a specific microbiological
22 or parasitic agent or its toxic products which arises through transmission of that agent
23 or its products from an infected person, animal, or inanimate reservoir to a susceptible
24 host, either directly or indirectly through an intermediate plant or animal host, vector,
25 or the inanimate environment.

26 ...

27 (15) 'Health care provider' means a physician and surgeon, a veterinarian, a
28 podiatrist, a nurse practitioner, a physician assistant, a registered nurse, a nurse
midwife, a school nurse, an infection control practitioner, a medical examiner, a
coroner, or a dentist.

(16) 'Health officer' and 'local health officer' as used in this subchapter
includes county, city, and district health officers.

(17) 'In attendance' means the existence of the relationship whereby a health
care provider renders those services which are authorized by the health care
provider's licensure or certification.

...

(19) 'Laboratory findings' means (A) the results of a laboratory examination of
any specimen derived from the human body which yields microscopic, culture,
immunologic, serologic, molecular, pathologic, or other evidence suggestive of a
disease or condition made reportable by these regulations; or (B) the results of a
laboratory examination of any specimen derived from an animal which yields
evidence of a disease or condition in animals made reportable by these regulations.

1 ...
2 (24) 'Sexually Transmitted Diseases' means Chancroid, Lymphogranuloma
3 venereum, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia.

4 (25) 'Suspected case' means (A) a person whom a health care provider
5 believes, after weighing signs, symptoms, and/or laboratory evidence, to probably
6 have a particular disease or condition listed in subsection (j); or (B) a person who is
7 considered a probable case, or an epidemiologically-linked case, or who has
8 supportive laboratory findings under the most recent communicable disease
9 surveillance case definition established by CDC or CSTE; or (C) an animal which has
10 been determined by a veterinarian to exhibit clinical signs or which has laboratory
11 findings suggestive of a disease or condition in animals made reportable by these
12 regulations.

13 ...
14 (b) It shall be the duty of every health care provider, knowing of or in
15 attendance on a case or suspected case of any of the diseases or conditions listed in
16 subsection (j) of this section, to report to the local health officer for the jurisdiction
17 where the patient resides as required in subsection (h) of this section. Where no health
18 care provider is in attendance, any individual having knowledge of a person who is
19 suspected to be suffering from one of the diseases or conditions listed in subsection
20 (j) of this section may make such a report to the local health officer for the
21 jurisdiction where the patient resides.

22 ...
23 (d) Each report made pursuant to subsection (b) shall include all of the
24 following information if known:

25 (1) name of the disease or condition being reported; the date of onset; the date
26 of diagnosis; the name, address, telephone number, occupation, race, ethnicity, Social
27 Security number, current gender identity, sex assigned at birth, sexual orientation,
28 pregnancy status, age, and date of birth for the case or suspected case; the date of
death if death has occurred; and the name, address and telephone number of the
person making the report.

(2) If the disease reported pursuant to subsection (b) is hepatitis, syphilis, or
tuberculosis, then the report shall include the following applicable information, if
known: (A) for hepatitis, the type-specific laboratory findings and sources of
exposure, (B) for syphilis, syphilis-specific laboratory findings, and (C) for
tuberculosis, information on the diagnostic status of the case or suspected case,
bacteriologic, radiologic and tuberculin skin test findings, information regarding the
risk of transmission of the disease to other persons, and a list of the anti-tuberculosis
medications administered to the patient.

29 ...
30 (h) The urgency of reporting is identified by symbols in the list of diseases and
31 conditions in subsection (j) of this section. Those diseases with a diamond (◆) are
32 considered emergencies and shall be reported immediately by telephone. Those
33 diseases and conditions with a cross (+) shall be reported by mailing, telephoning, or
34 electronically transmitting a report within one (1) working day of identification of the
35 case or suspected case, except for acute HIV infection reporting which shall be

1 reported by telephone (see (k) for specific requirements). Those diseases and
2 conditions not otherwise identified by a diamond or a cross shall be reported by
3 mailing a written report, telephoning, or electronically transmitting a report within
4 seven (7) calendar days of the time of identification.

5 ...

6 (j) Health care providers shall submit reports for the following diseases or
7 conditions.

8 ...

9 + Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), acute infection, (see (k) for
10 additional reporting requirements)

11 Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection, any stage

12 Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection, progression to stage 3
13 (AIDS)

14 ...

15 + Syphilis (all stages, including congenital)

16 ...

17 (+) = to be reported by mailing a report, telephoning, or electronically
18 transmitting a report within one (1) working day of identification of the case or
19 suspected case.

20 (No diamond or cross symbol) = to be reported within seven (7) calendar days
21 by mail, telephone, or electronic report from the time of identification.

22 ...

23 (k) In addition to routine reporting requirements set forth in section 2643.5, for
24 acute HIV infection reporting, health care providers shall report all cases within one
25 (1) working day to the local health officer of the jurisdiction in which the patient
26 resides by telephone. If evidence of acute HIV infection is based on presence of HIV
27 p24 antigen, providers shall not wait until HIV-1 RNA is detected before reporting to
28 the local health officer.

29 COST RECOVERY

30 8. Section 125.3 of the Code states:

31 (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a
32 disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the
33 Osteopathic Medical Board upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the
34 administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or
35 violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the
36 investigation and enforcement of the case.

37 (b) In the case of a disciplined licentiate that is a corporation or a partnership,
38 the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.

1 (c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where
2 actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its
3 designated representative shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of
4 investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of
investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not
limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.

5 (d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount
6 of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested
7 pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard
8 to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board
may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if
the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to
subdivision (a).

9 (e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as
10 directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any
appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights
the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.

11 (f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be
12 conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.

13 (g)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or
14 reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered
under this section.

15 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion,
16 conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any
licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement
17 with the board to reimburse the board within that one-year period for the unpaid
costs.

18 (h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement
19 for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs
to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.

20 (i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of
the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.

21 (j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in
22 that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative
disciplinary proceeding.

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1 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

3 9. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34669 to
4 disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (c), of
5 the Code, in that he committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment of Patients A
6 through O¹, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

7 10. In or around 2016, Respondent established the Long Beach Corner Clinic (LBCC) in
8 Long Beach, CA. LBCC is a health care clinic specializing in internal family medicine.
9 Respondent is the sole owner of the clinic and has employed nurse practitioner, R.U., N.P., (NP
10 R.U.) to work at LBCC.

11 11. On or about December 1, 2016, Respondent and NP R.U. entered into a Nurse
12 Practitioner and Physician Agreement. Under this agreement, Respondent agreed to serve as NP
13 R.U.'s supervising physician at LBCC, and NP R.U. agreed to be responsible for all aspects of
14 patient care and maintaining documentation. Respondent's supervision of NP R.U. mainly
15 consisted of being available by phone as needed and coming to the clinic one day each week to
16 review charts and to discuss complex cases. Respondent did not see patients at the clinic unless
17 he was covering for NP R.U.'s absence.

18 12. In or around June 2017, in an effort to boost the clinic's census, Respondent applied
19 to be a Family Practice, Access, Care, and Treatment (Family PACT)² provider.

20 **PATIENT A**

21 13. On or about October 30, 2017, Patient A, a male Family PACT patient with a date of
22 birth of 12/11/68, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's
23 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient A informed NP R.U. that he was
24 single, had one sexual partner in the last six months, and had no history of sexually transmitted

25 ¹ To protect the privacy of the patients involved, the patients' names have not been
26 included in this pleading. Respondent is aware of the identity of the patients referred to herein.

27 ² Family PACT is a state funded program offering comprehensive family planning
28 services to eligible low-income California residents. Services include, but are not limited to, birth
control, family planning counseling, and sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment.

1 diseases (STDs). NP R.U. performed a physical examination of Patient A that did not include the
2 genitourinary³ (GU) tract. At the conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient A for STD
3 testing that was performed that same day.

4 14. On or about November 4, 2017, Patient A's lab results revealed reactive syphilis⁴
5 enzyme immunoassay (EIA),⁵ non-reactive rapid plasma reagin (RPR),⁶ positive treponema
6 pallidum particle agglutination assay (TPPA), and non-reactive human immunodeficiency virus
7 (HIV).

8 15. On or about December 15, 2017, Patient A returned to LBCC to obtain his lab results
9 and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP
10 R.U. did not inquire whether Patient A had previously been treated for syphilis, did not perform a
11 physical examination, did not treat the patient's syphilis, and did not refer the patient to the local
12 health department for treatment. NP R.U. informed Patient A that his lab results were normal and
13 no one at LBCC reported Patient A's abnormal syphilis test to the local health department at any
14 time.

15 **PATIENT B**

16 16. On or about November 3, 2017, Patient B, a male Family PACT patient with a date of
17 birth of 3/29/70, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's
18 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient B informed NP R.U. that he was
19 single, had two sexual partners in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. NP R.U.

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21 ³ The genitourinary tract includes, but is not limited to, the groin, scrotum/testes, penis,
perenium, anus/rectum, and urethra.

22 ⁴ Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the spirochete *Treponema*
23 *Pallidum*.

24 ⁵ Treponemal tests, like syphilis EIA and TPPA, detect syphilis-specific antibodies. Once
25 an individual has been infected with syphilis, these tests will usually remain positive for life, and
thus they are no longer useful in distinguishing new versus prior infection.

26 ⁶ Non-treponemal tests, like RPR, detect antibodies to cellular components released during
27 tissue damage caused by syphilis. As a result, they are less specific, and can be elevated due to
28 other conditions, including autoimmune diseases or acute febrile illnesses. These tests are
reported as titres, which are used to monitor response to treatment or to ascertain reinfection in
people with positive treponemal tests. With or without treatment, non-treponemal tests titres will
decline over time.

1 performed a physical examination of Patient B that did not include the GU tract. At the
2 conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient B for STD testing that was performed that same
3 day.

4 17. On or about November 6, 2017, Patient B's lab results revealed reactive syphilis EIA,
5 weakly reactive RPR at a 1:1 dilution, and non-reactive HIV.

6 18. On or about December 26, 2017, Patient B returned to LBCC to obtain his lab results
7 and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP
8 R.U. did not document a discussion with Patient B regarding the abnormal lab results, did not
9 inquire whether Patient B had previously been treated for syphilis, did not perform a physical
10 examination, did not treat the patient's syphilis, and did not refer the patient to the local health
11 department for treatment. No one at LBCC reported Patient B's abnormal syphilis test to the
12 local health department at any time.

13 **PATIENT C**

14 19. On or about December 12, 2017, Patient C, a female Family PACT patient with a date
15 of birth of 10/24/76, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The
16 patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient C informed NP R.U. that she
17 was single, had one sexual partner in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. NP R.U.
18 performed a physical examination of Patient C that did not include a gynecological examination.
19 At the conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient C for STD testing that was performed that
20 same day.

21 20. On or about December 14, 2017, Patient C's lab results revealed reactive syphilis
22 EIA, weakly reactive RPR at a 1:1 dilution, and non-reactive HIV.

23 21. On or about January 5, 2018, Patient C returned to LBCC to obtain her lab results and
24 was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP R.U.
25 did not document a discussion with Patient C regarding the abnormal lab results, did not inquire
26 whether Patient C had previously been treated for syphilis, did not perform a physical
27 examination, did not treat the patient's syphilis, and did not refer the patient to the local health

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1 department for treatment. No one at LBCC reported Patient B's abnormal syphilis test to the
2 local health department at any time.

3 **PATIENT D**

4 22. On or about December 5, 2017, Patient D, a male Family PACT patient with a date of
5 birth of 4/8/64, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's
6 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient D informed NP R.U. that he was
7 single, had two sexual partners in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. NP R.U.
8 performed a physical examination of Patient B that did not include the GU tract. At the
9 conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient D for STD testing that was performed that same
10 day.

11 23. On or about December 6, 2017, Patient D's lab results revealed non-reactive syphilis
12 EIA, and non-reactive HIV.

13 24. On or about February 2, 2018, Patient D returned to LBCC to obtain his lab results
14 and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP
15 R.U. informed Patient D that his lab results were normal.

16 **PATIENT E**

17 25. On or about November 27, 2017, Patient E, a male Family PACT patient with a date
18 of birth of 6/6/66, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's
19 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient E informed NP R.U. that he was
20 single, had two sexual partners in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. NP R.U.
21 performed a physical examination of Patient E that did not include the GU tract. At the
22 conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient E for STD testing that was performed that same
23 day.

24 26. On or about November 30, 2017, Patient E's lab results revealed reactive syphilis
25 EIA, non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and non-reactive HIV.

26 27. On or about February 12, 2018, Patient E returned to LBCC to obtain his lab results
27 and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP
28 R.U. did not have a documented discussion with Patient E regarding the abnormal lab results, did

1 not inquire whether Patient E had previously been treated for syphilis, did not perform a physical
2 examination, did not treat the patient's syphilis, and did not refer the patient to the local health
3 department for treatment. No one at LBCC reported Patient E's abnormal syphilis test to the
4 local health department at any time.

5 **PATIENT F**

6 28. On or about October 18, 2017, Patient F, a male Family PACT patient with a date of
7 birth of 1/23/90, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's
8 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient F informed NP R.U. that he was
9 divorced, had four sexual partners in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. NP R.U.
10 performed a physical examination of Patient F that did not include the GU tract. At the
11 conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient F for STD testing that was performed that same
12 day.

13 29. On or about October 24, 2017, Patient F's lab results revealed reactive syphilis EIA,
14 non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and positive HIV.

15 30. On or about November 10, 2017, LBCC sent a letter to Patient F asking him to
16 contact the office to discuss his test results. The letter was subsequently returned as
17 undeliverable.

18 31. On or about December 22, 2017, LBCC sent an HIV/AIDS case report form for
19 Patient F to the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. Patient F did not return
20 to LBCC for a follow-up visit and no one at LBCC reported Patient F's abnormal syphilis test to
21 the local health department at any time.

22 **PATIENT G**

23 32. On or about October 4, 2017, Patient G, a male Family PACT patient with a date of
24 birth of 5/5/84, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's
25 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient G informed NP R.U. that he was single
26 and had four sexual partners in the last six months. NP R.U. performed a physical examination of
27 Patient G that did not include the GU tract. At the conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred
28 Patient G for STD testing that was performed that same day.

1 33. On or about October 10, 2017, Patient G's lab results revealed reactive syphilis EIA,
2 non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and non-reactive HIV.

3 34. On or about November 20, 2017, Patient G returned to LBCC to obtain his lab results
4 and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP
5 R.U. did not have a documented discussion with Patient G regarding the abnormal lab results, did
6 not inquire whether Patient G had previously been treated for syphilis, did not perform a physical
7 examination, and did not treat the patient's syphilis, but did refer the patient to the local health
8 department for treatment.

9 **PATIENT H**

10 35. On or about November 27, 2017, Patient H, a male Family PACT patient with a date
11 of birth of 1/21/69, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The
12 patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient H informed NP R.U. that he
13 was single, had two sexual partners in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. NP R.U.
14 performed a physical examination of Patient H that did not include the GU tract. At the
15 conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient H for STD testing that was performed that same
16 day.

17 36. On or about November 30, 2017, Patient H's lab results revealed reactive syphilis
18 EIA, non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and non-reactive HIV.

19 37. On or about February 19, 2018, Patient H returned to LBCC to obtain his lab results
20 and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP
21 R.U. did not have a documented discussion with Patient H regarding the abnormal lab results, did
22 not inquire whether Patient H had previously been treated for syphilis, did not perform a physical
23 examination, did not treat the patient's syphilis, and did not refer the patient to the local health
24 department for treatment. No one at LBCC reported Patient H's abnormal syphilis test to the
25 local health department at any time.

26 **PATIENT I**

27 38. On or about December 20, 2017, Patient I, a male Family PACT patient with a date of
28 birth of 9/8/68, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's

1 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient I informed NP R.U. that he was single,
2 had one sexual partner in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. NP R.U. performed a
3 physical examination of Patient I that did not include the GU tract. At the conclusion of the visit,
4 NP R.U. referred Patient I for STD testing that was performed that same day.

5 39. On or about December 28, 2017, Patient I's lab results revealed reactive syphilis EIA,
6 non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and non-reactive HIV.

7 40. On or about January 11, 2018, Patient I returned to LBCC to obtain his lab results and
8 was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP R.U.
9 did not document a discussion with Patient I regarding the abnormal lab results, did not inquire
10 whether Patient I had previously been treated for syphilis, did not perform a physical
11 examination, did not treat the patient's syphilis, and did not refer the patient to the local health
12 department for treatment. No one at LBCC reported Patient I's abnormal syphilis test to the local
13 health department at any time.

14 **PATIENT J**

15 41. On or about November 3, 2017, Patient J, a female Family PACT patient with a date
16 of birth of 3/28/70, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The
17 patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient J informed NP R.U. that she
18 was single, had three sexual partner in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. NP R.U.
19 performed a physical examination of Patient J that did not include a gynecological examination.
20 At the conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient J for STD testing that was performed that
21 same day.

22 42. On or about November 17, 2017, Patient J's lab results revealed reactive syphilis
23 EIA, non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and non-reactive HIV.

24 43. On or about December 15, 2018, Patient J returned to LBCC to obtain her lab results
25 and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP
26 R.U. did not document a discussion with Patient J regarding the abnormal lab results, did not
27 inquire whether Patient J had previously been treated for syphilis, did not perform a physical
28 examination, did not treat the patient's syphilis, and did not refer the patient to the local health

1 department for treatment. No one at LBCC reported Patient J's abnormal syphilis test to the local
2 health department at any time.

3 **PATIENT K**

4 44. On or about September 27, 2017, Patient K, a male Family PACT patient with a date
5 of birth of 2/27/68, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The
6 patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient K informed NP R.U. that he
7 was single, had four sexual partners in the last six months, and had a history of previously treated
8 syphilis. NP R.U. performed a physical examination of Patient K that did not include the GU
9 tract. At the conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient K for STD testing that was
10 performed that same day.

11 45. On or about September 30, 2017, Patient K's lab results revealed reactive syphilis
12 EIA, non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and non-reactive HIV.

13 46. On or about October 16, 2017, Patient K returned to LBCC to obtain his lab results
14 and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP
15 R.U. provided the patient's lab results on that date.

16 **PATIENT L**

17 47. On or about October 24, 2017, Patient L, a male Family PACT patient with a date of
18 birth of 5/29/88, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's
19 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient L informed NP R.U. that he was
20 single, had two sexual partners in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. At the
21 conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient L for STD testing that was performed that same
22 day.

23 48. On or about October 26, 2017, Patient L's lab results revealed non-reactive syphilis
24 EIA and positive HIV.

25 49. On or about November 8, 2017, LBCC sent a letter to Patient M asking him to contact
26 the office to discuss his test results.

27 50. On or about December 22, 2017, LBCC sent an HIV/AIDS case report form for
28 Patient L to the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services.

1 **PATIENT M**

2 51. On or about August 21, 2017, Patient M, a male Family PACT patient with a date of
3 birth of 5/29/88, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's
4 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient M informed NP R.U. that he was
5 single, had no sexual partners in the last six months, and had a prior positive test for syphilis. NP
6 R.U. performed a physical examination of Patient M that did not include the GU tract. At the
7 conclusion of the visit, NP R.U. referred Patient M for STD testing that was performed that same
8 day.

9 52. On or about August 26, 2017, Patient M's lab results revealed reactive syphilis EIA,
10 non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and positive HIV.

11 53. On or about November 8, 2017, LBCC sent a letter to Patient M asking him to contact
12 the office to discuss his test results. The letter was subsequently returned as undeliverable.

13 54. On or about December 22, 2017, LBCC sent an HIV/AIDS case report form for
14 Patient M to the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. Patient M did not
15 return to LBCC for a follow-up visit and no one at LBCC reported Patient M's abnormal syphilis
16 test to the local health department at any time.

17 **PATIENT N**

18 55. On or about October 6, 2017, Patient N, a female Family PACT patient with a date of
19 birth of 12/15/83, presented to LBCC for family planning and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's
20 chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears Patient N informed NP R.U. that she had four
21 sexual partners in the last six months and had no history of STDs. NP R.U. performed a physical
22 examination of Patient N that did not include a gynecological exam. At the conclusion of the
23 visit, NP R.U. referred Patient N for STD testing that was performed that same day.

24 56. On or about October 10, 2017, Patient N's lab results revealed reactive syphilis EIA,
25 non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and positive HIV.

26 57. On or about November 8, 2017, and on or about November 30, 2017, LBCC sent
27 letters to Patient N asking her to contact the office to discuss her test results.

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1 58. On or about December 27, 2017, LBCC sent an HIV/AIDS case report form for
2 Patient N to the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. Patient N did not return
3 to LBCC for a follow-up visit and no one at LBCC reported Patient N's abnormal syphilis test to
4 the local health department at any time.

5 **PATIENT O**

6 59. On or about November 28, 2017, Patient O, a male Family PACT patient with a date
7 of birth of 12/11/89, presented to LBCC and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely
8 illegible on this date, but it appears Patient O informed NP R.U. that he was single, had one
9 sexual partner in the last six months, and had no history of STDs. NP R.U. performed a physical
10 examination of Patient O that did not include the GU tract. At the conclusion of the visit, NP
11 R.U. referred Patient O for STD testing that was performed that same day.

12 60. On or about December 2, 2017, Patient O's lab results revealed reactive syphilis EIA,
13 non-reactive RPR, reactive TPPA, and non-reactive HIV.

14 61. On or about December 20, 2017, Patient O returned to LBCC to obtain his lab results
15 and was seen by NP R.U. The patient's chart is largely illegible on this date, but it appears NP
16 R.U. did not document a discussion with Patient O regarding the abnormal lab results, did not
17 inquire whether Patient O had previously been treated for syphilis, did not perform a physical
18 examination, did not treat the patient's syphilis, and did not refer the patient to the local health
19 department for treatment. No one at LBCC reported Patient O's abnormal syphilis test to the
20 local health department at any time.

21 62. On or about February 21, 2018, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
22 made an unannounced site visit to LBCC and audited Family PACT patient charts.

23 63. On or about April 16, 2018, Respondent was interviewed by an investigator for
24 DHCS. During that interview, Respondent admitted he was the owner of LBCC and the
25 supervising physician of NP R.U. When asked about his supervision of NP R.U., Respondent
26 indicated that he does not "micromanage" NP R.U., that he is available for consultation 24/7, and
27 comes into the office for approximately one to one and a half hours each week to review
28 "problem charts" for patients with thyroid problems, older diabetics, and atypical chest pain.

1 When asked about sexually transmitted illness reporting, Respondent stated that he was unsure of
2 the process, but had informed NP R.U. to report all diseases.

3 64. On or about September 25, 2020, NP R.U. participated in an interview with an
4 investigator for the Board. During this interview, NP R.U. indicated that Respondent reviews
5 approximately 1% of his charts and although he and Respondent had discussed cases, Respondent
6 never sat down and trained him on how to interpret syphilis and AIDS test results.

7 65. On or about November 16, 2020, Respondent participated in an interview with an
8 investigator for the Board. During this interview, Respondent indicated that prior to the DHCS
9 audit, he was not specifically reviewing any Family PACT charts, and stated, "[NP R.U.] is a
10 public health nurse and trained in reportable diseases specifically...this is the last thing I thought I
11 would need to supervise." In response to NP R.U.'s documentation, Respondent stated, "I'm not
12 satisfied with his handwriting whatsoever. I've told him that many times." With regards to NP
13 R.U.'s reporting of sexually transmitted diseases, Respondent stated that he was completely
14 dissatisfied with the care provided to these patients.

15 66. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in his care and treatment of Patients A
16 through O, which included, but was not limited to, the following:

- 17 (a) Failing to adequately supervise NP R.U. in the care and treatment of Patient A;
- 18 (b) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
19 of Patient A;
- 20 (c) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient A's abnormal
21 syphilis test;
- 22 (d) Failing to adequately supervise NP R.U. in the care and treatment of Patient B;
- 23 (e) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
24 of Patient B;
- 25 (f) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient B's abnormal
26 syphilis test;
- 27 (g) Failing to adequately supervise NP R.U. in the care and treatment of Patient C;

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- 1 (h) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
2 of Patient C;
- 3 (i) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient C's abnormal
4 syphilis test;
- 5 (j) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
6 of Patient D;
- 7 (k) Failing to adequately supervise NP R.U. in the care and treatment of Patient E;
- 8 (l) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
9 of Patient E;
- 10 (m) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient E's abnormal
11 syphilis test;
- 12 (n) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient F's abnormal
13 syphilis test;
- 14 (o) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
15 of Patient G;
- 16 (p) Failing to adequately supervise NP R.U. in the care and treatment of Patient H;
- 17 (q) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
18 of Patient H;
- 19 (r) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient H's abnormal
20 syphilis test;
- 21 (s) Failing to adequately supervise NP R.U. in the care and treatment of Patient I;
- 22 (t) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
23 of Patient I;
- 24 (u) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient I's abnormal
25 syphilis test;
- 26 (v) Failing to adequately supervise NP R.U. in the care and treatment of Patient J;
- 27 (w) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
28 of Patient J;

- 1 (x) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient J's abnormal
2 syphilis test;
- 3 (y) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
4 of Patient K;
- 5 (z) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
6 of Patient L;
- 7 (aa) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and
8 treatment of Patient M;
- 9 (bb) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient M's abnormal
10 syphilis test;
- 11 (cc) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and
12 treatment of Patient N;
- 13 (dd) Failing to ensure mandated public health reporting of Patient N's abnormal
14 syphilis test;
- 15 (ee) Failing to adequately supervise NP R.U. in the care and treatment of Patient O;
16 and
- 17 (ff) Failing to fulfill requirements of medical record keeping in the care and treatment
18 of Patient O;

19 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

20 **(Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Records)**

21 67. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
22 G 34669 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2266, of the
23 Code, in that Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records regarding his care and
24 treatment of Patients A-O, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 66(ff), above,
25 which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

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1 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(General Unprofessional Conduct)**

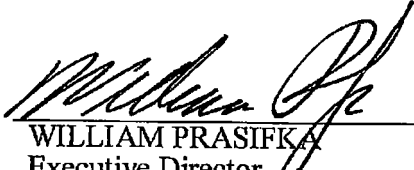
3 68. Respondent has further subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
4 G 34669 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234 of the Code, in that he has engaged
5 in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is
6 unbecoming to a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an
7 unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 9 through 66(ff), above,
8 which are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

9 **PRAYER**

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

- 12 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34669, issued
13 to Respondent, George Robert Knull, M.D.;
- 14 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent, George Robert Knull,
15 M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 16 3. Ordering Respondent, George Robert Knull, M.D., to pay the Board the costs of the
17 investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs
18 of probation monitoring; and
- 19 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

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21 DATED: FEB 01 2022

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23 WILLIAM PRASIFKA
24 Executive Director
25 Medical Board of California
26 Department of Consumer Affairs
27 State of California
28 Complainant

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