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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Mir Baquar Ali, M.D. Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 Respondent.	Case No. 800-2016-024460

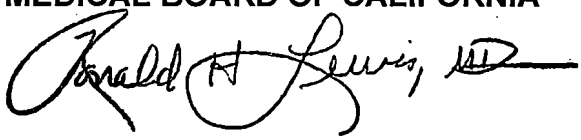
DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on August 27, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED: July 28, 2020.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA



Ronald H. Lewis, M.D., Chair
Panel A

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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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 Accusation Against: **Mir Baquar Ali, M.D.** **18111 Brookhurst Street, Suite # 5600** **Fountain Valley, CA 92708** **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359,** Respondent.	Case No. 800-2016-024460 OAH No. 2019100078 **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. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California (Board). This action was brought by then Complainant Kimberly Kirchmeyer solely in her official capacity.[1] Complainant is represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Rosemary F. Luzon, Deputy Attorney General.

[1] Ms. Kirchmeyer became the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs on October 28, 2019.

2. Respondent Mir Baquar Ali, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Michael D. Gonzalez, Esq., whose address is: Law Offices of Michael D. Gonzalez, 101 N. Brand Boulevard, Suite 1880, Glendale, CA 91203.

3. On or about September 3, 1991, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2016-024460, and will expire on July 31, 2021, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. On or about July 5, 2019, Accusation No. 800-2016-024460 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 5, 2019, at his address of record. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 800-2016-024460 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2016-024460. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his 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, having been fully advised of same by his attorney of record, Michael D. Gonzalez, Esq.

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

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2016-024460, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, and that he has thereby subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 to disciplinary action.

9. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, or if an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation is filed against him before the Medical Board of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2016-024460 shall be deemed true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of that proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

10. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

11. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval by the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Board for its consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Board shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it.

12. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or

the Attorney General's office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the Board does not, in its discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Board, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

14. 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.

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

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 issued to Respondent Mir Baquar Ali, M.D., is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years from the effective date of the Decision on the following terms and conditions.

1. EDUCATION COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours

per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test Respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 65 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

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

3. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall

provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the 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 program would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

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

4. CLINICAL COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a clinical competence assessment program approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall successfully complete the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment unless the Board or its designee agrees in writing to an extension of that time.

The program shall consist of a comprehensive assessment of Respondent's physical and mental health and the six general domains of clinical competence as defined by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education and American Board of Medical Specialties pertaining to Respondent's current or intended area of practice. The program shall take into account data obtained from the pre-assessment, self-report forms and interview, and the Decision, Accusation, and any other information that the Board or its designee deems relevant. The program shall require Respondent's on-site participation for a minimum of three (3) and no more than five (5) days as determined by the program for the assessment and clinical education evaluation. Respondent shall pay all expenses associated with the clinical competence assessment program.

At the end of the evaluation, the program will submit a report to the Board or its designee which unequivocally states whether the Respondent has demonstrated the ability to practice safely and independently. Based on Respondent's performance on the clinical competence assessment, the program will advise the Board or its designee of its recommendation(s) for the scope and length of any additional educational or clinical training, evaluation or treatment for any medical condition or psychological condition, or anything else affecting Respondent's practice of medicine. Respondent shall comply with the program's recommendations.

Determination as to whether Respondent successfully completed the clinical competence assessment program is solely within the program's jurisdiction.

If Respondent fails to enroll, participate in, or successfully complete the clinical competence assessment program within the designated time period, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until enrollment or participation in the outstanding portions of the clinical competence assessment program have been completed. If the Respondent did not successfully complete the clinical competence assessment program, the Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until a final decision has been rendered on the accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation. The cessation of practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary time period.

5. MONITORING - PRACTICE. Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval as a practice monitor, the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physicians and surgeons whose licenses are valid and in good standing, and who are preferably American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certified. A monitor shall have no prior or current business or personal relationship with Respondent, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Board, including but not limited to any form of bartering, shall be in Respondent's field of practice, and must agree to serve as Respondent's monitor. Respondent shall pay all monitoring costs.

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The Board or its designee shall provide the approved monitor with copies of the Decision and Accusation, and a proposed monitoring plan. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the Decision, Accusation, and proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a signed statement that the monitor has read the Decision and Accusation, fully understands the role of a monitor, and agrees or disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan. If the monitor disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan with the signed statement for approval by the Board or its designee.

Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and continuing throughout probation, Respondent's practice shall be monitored by the approved monitor. Respondent shall make all records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the monitor at all times during business hours and shall retain the records for the entire term of probation.

If Respondent fails to obtain approval of a monitor within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall receive 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 cease the practice of medicine until a monitor is approved to provide monitoring responsibility.

The monitor shall submit a quarterly written report to the Board or its designee which includes an evaluation of Respondent's performance, indicating whether Respondent's practices are within the standards of practice of medicine, and whether Respondent is practicing medicine safely. It shall be the sole responsibility of Respondent to ensure that the monitor submits the quarterly written reports to the Board or its designee within 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, Respondent shall, within 5 calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within 15 calendar days. If Respondent fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within 60 calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, Respondent shall receive 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 cease the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and assumes monitoring responsibility.

In lieu of a monitor, Respondent may participate in a professional enhancement program approved in advance by the Board or its designee that includes, at minimum, quarterly chart review, semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional growth and education. Respondent shall participate in the professional enhancement program at Respondent's expense during the term of probation.

6. SOLO PRACTICE PROHIBITION. Respondent is prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. Prohibited solo practice includes, but is not limited to, a practice where: 1) Respondent merely shares office space with another physician but is not affiliated for purposes of providing patient care, or 2) Respondent is the sole physician practitioner at that location.

If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

If, during the course of the probation, the Respondent's practice setting changes and the Respondent is no longer practicing in a setting in compliance with this Decision, the Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee within five (5) calendar days of the practice setting change. If Respondent fails to establish a practice with another physician or secure employment in an appropriate practice setting within 60 calendar days of the practice setting change, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. The Respondent shall not resume practice until an appropriate practice setting is established.

7. NOTIFICATION. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to

Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

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

8. SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES. During probation, except during the conduct of surgery, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.

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

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

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

11. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

Compliance with Probation Unit

Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

Address Changes

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

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Place of Practice

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

License Renewal

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

Travel or Residence Outside California

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

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

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

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

on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16. LICENSE SURRENDER. Following the effective date of this Decision, if Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy

the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

17. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Michael D. Gonzalez, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359. 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: 4/28/2020

MIR BAQUAR ALI, M.D.
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Mir Baquar Ali, 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: 5-6-20

MICHAEL D. GONZALEZ, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

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

DATED: 5/8/2020

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General of California
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



ROSEMARY F. LUZON
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2016-024460

FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO July 5 2019
BY ANDREA CEBALLOS ANALYST

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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 Accusation Against: **Mir Baquar Ali, M.D.** **18111 Brookhurst Street, Suite # 5600** **Fountain Valley, CA 92708** **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359,** Respondent.	Case No. 800-2016-024460 **ACCUSATION**

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

2. On or about September 3, 1991, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 to Mir Baquar Ali, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 2019, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

3. This 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 2220 of the Code states:

"Except as otherwise provided by law, the board may take action against all persons guilty of violating this chapter. . ."

5. Section 2227 of the Code states:

"(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.

". . ."

6. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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

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

"(b) Gross negligence.

". . ."

7. Section 3501 of the Code states:

"(1) 'Board' means the Physician Assistant Board.[1]

". . .

"(4) 'Physician assistant' means a person who meets the requirements of this chapter and is licensed by the board.

"(5) 'Supervising physician' or 'supervising physician and surgeon' means a physician and surgeon licensed by the Medical Board of California or by the Osteopathic Medical Board of California who supervises one or more physician assistants, who possesses a current valid license to practice medicine, and who is not currently on disciplinary probation for improper use of a physician assistant.

(6) 'Supervision' means that a licensed physician and surgeon oversees the activities of, and accepts responsibility for, the medical services rendered by a physician assistant.

(7) 'Regulations' means the rules and regulations as set forth in Chapter 13.8 (commencing with Section 1399.500) of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.

". . .

"(10) 'Delegation of services agreement' means the writing that delegates to a physician assistant from a supervising physician the medical services the physician assistant is authorized to perform consistent with subdivision (a) of Section 1399.540 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.

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[1] This definition applies only to sections 3501 and 3502 of the Code herein.

"(11) 'Other specified medical services' means tests or examinations performed or ordered by a physician assistant practicing in compliance with this chapter or regulations of the Medical Board of California promulgated under this chapter.

"(12) 'Medical records review meeting' means a meeting between the supervising physician and surgeon and the physician assistant during which medical records are reviewed to ensure adequate supervision of the physician assistant functioning under protocols. Medical records review meetings may occur in person or by electronic communication.

"(b) A physician assistant acts as an agent of the supervising physician when performing any activity authorized by this chapter or regulations adopted under this chapter."

8. Section 3502 of the Code states:

"(a) Notwithstanding any other law, a physician assistant may perform those medical services as set forth by the regulations adopted under this chapter when the services are rendered under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon who is not subject to a disciplinary condition imposed by the Medical Board of California prohibiting that supervision or prohibiting the employment of a physician assistant. The medical record, for each episode of care for a patient, shall identify the physician and surgeon who is responsible for the supervision of the physician assistant.

"(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other law, a physician assistant performing medical services under the supervision of a physician and surgeon may assist a doctor of podiatric medicine who is a partner, shareholder, or employee in the same medical group as the supervising physician and surgeon. A physician assistant who assists a doctor of podiatric medicine pursuant to this subdivision shall do so only according to patient-specific orders from the supervising physician and surgeon.

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"(2) The supervising physician and surgeon shall be physically available to the physician assistant for consultation when that assistance is rendered. A physician assistant assisting a doctor of podiatric medicine shall be limited to performing those duties included within the scope of practice of a doctor of podiatric medicine.

"(c)(1) A physician assistant and his or her supervising physician and surgeon shall establish written guidelines for the adequate supervision of the physician assistant. This requirement may be satisfied by the supervising physician and surgeon adopting protocols for some or all of the tasks performed by the physician assistant. The protocols adopted pursuant to this subdivision shall comply with the following requirements:

"(A) A protocol governing diagnosis and management shall, at a minimum, include the presence or absence of symptoms, signs, and other data necessary to establish a diagnosis or assessment, any appropriate tests or studies to order, drugs to recommend to the patient, and education to be provided to the patient.

"(B) A protocol governing procedures shall set forth the information to be provided to the patient, the nature of the consent to be obtained from the patient, the preparation and technique of the procedure, and the followup care.

"(C) Protocols shall be developed by the supervising physician and surgeon or adopted from, or referenced to, texts or other sources.

"(D) Protocols shall be signed and dated by the supervising physician and surgeon and the physician assistant.

"(2)(A) The supervising physician and surgeon shall use one or more of the following mechanisms to ensure adequate supervision of the physician assistant functioning under the protocols:

"(i) The supervising physician and surgeon shall review, countersign, and date a sample consisting of, at a minimum, 5 percent of the medical records of patients treated by the physician assistant functioning under the protocols within 30 days of the date of treatment by the physician assistant.

"(ii) The supervising physician and surgeon and physician assistant shall conduct a medical records review meeting at least once a month during at least 10 months of the year. During any month in which a medical records review meeting occurs, the supervising physician and surgeon and physician assistant shall review an aggregate of at least 10 medical records of patients treated by the physician assistant functioning under protocols. Documentation of medical records reviewed during the month shall be jointly signed and dated by the supervising physician and surgeon and the physician assistant.

"(iii) The supervising physician and surgeon shall review a sample of at least 10 medical records per month, at least 10 months during the year, using a combination of the countersignature mechanism described in clause (i) and the medical records review meeting mechanism described in clause (ii). During each month for which a sample is reviewed, at least one of the medical records in the sample shall be reviewed using the mechanism described in clause (i) and at least one of the medical records in the sample shall be reviewed using the mechanism described in clause (ii).

"(B) In complying with subparagraph (A), the supervising physician and surgeon shall select for review those cases that by diagnosis, problem, treatment, or procedure represent, in his or her judgment, the most significant risk to the patient.

"(3) Notwithstanding any other law, the Medical Board of California or the board may establish other alternative mechanisms for the adequate supervision of the physician assistant.

". . .

"(f) Compliance by a physician assistant and supervising physician and surgeon with this section shall be deemed compliance with Section 1399.546 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations."

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9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.540, states:

"(a) A physician assistant may only provide those medical services which he or she is competent to perform and which are consistent with the physician assistant's education, training, and experience, and which are delegated in writing by a supervising physician who is responsible for the patients cared for by that physician assistant.

"(b) The writing which delegates the medical services shall be known as a delegation of services agreement. A delegation of services agreement shall be signed and dated by the physician assistant and each supervising physician. A delegation of services agreement may be signed by more than one supervising physician only if the same medical services have been delegated by each supervising physician. A physician assistant may provide medical services pursuant to more than one delegation of services agreement.

". . .

"(d) A physician assistant shall consult with a physician regarding any task, procedure or diagnostic problem which the physician assistant determines exceeds his or her level of competence or shall refer such cases to a physician."

10. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.541, states:

"Because physician assistant practice is directed by a supervising physician, and a physician assistant acts as an agent for that physician, the orders given and tasks performed by a physician assistant shall be considered the same as if they had been given and performed by the supervising physician. Unless otherwise specified in these regulations or in the delegation or protocols, these orders may be initiated without the prior patient specific order of the supervising physician.

"In any setting, including for example, any licensed health facility, out-patient settings, patients' residences, residential facilities, and hospices, as applicable, a physician assistant may, pursuant to a delegation and protocols where present:

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"(a) Take a patient history; perform a physical examination and make an assessment and diagnosis therefrom; initiate, review and revise treatment and therapy plans including plans for those services described in Section 1399.541(b) through Section 1399.541(i) inclusive; and record and present pertinent data in a manner meaningful to the physician.

"(b) Order or transmit an order for x-ray, other studies, therapeutic diets, physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, and nursing services.

"(c) Order, transmit an order for, perform, or assist in the performance of laboratory procedures, screening procedures and therapeutic procedures.

"(d) Recognize and evaluate situations which call for immediate attention of a physician and institute, when necessary, treatment procedures essential for the life of the patient.

"(e) Instruct and counsel patients regarding matters pertaining to their physical and mental health. Counseling may include topics such as medications, diets, social habits, family planning, normal growth and development, aging, and understanding of and long-term management of their diseases.

"(f) Initiate arrangements for admissions, complete forms and charts pertinent to the patient's medical record, and provide services to patients requiring continuing care, including patients at home.

"(g) Initiate and facilitate the referral of patients to the appropriate health facilities, agencies, and resources of the community.

"(h) Administer or provide medication to a patient, or issue or transmit drug orders orally or in writing in accordance with the provisions of subdivisions (a)-(f), inclusive, of Section 3502.1 of the Code.

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"(i)(1) Perform surgical procedures without the personal presence of the supervising physician which are customarily performed under local anesthesia. Prior to delegating any such surgical procedures, the supervising physician shall review documentation which indicates that the physician assistant is trained to perform the surgical procedures. All other surgical procedures requiring other forms of anesthesia may be performed by a physician assistant only in the personal presence of a supervising physician.

"(2) A physician assistant may also act as first or second assistant in surgery under the supervision of a supervising physician. The physician assistant may so act without the personal presence of the supervising physician if the supervising physician is immediately available to the physician assistant. 'Immediately available' means the physician is physically accessible and able to return to the patient, without any delay, upon the request of the physician assistant to address any situation requiring the supervising physician's services."

11. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.542, states:

"The delegation of procedures to a physician assistant under Section 1399.541, subsections (b) and (c) shall not relieve the supervising physician of primary continued responsibility for the welfare of the patient."

12. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.545, states:

"(a) A supervising physician shall be available in person or by electronic communication at all times when the physician assistant is caring for patients.

"(b) A supervising physician shall delegate to a physician assistant only those tasks and procedures consistent with the supervising physician's specialty or usual and customary practice and with the patient's health and condition.

"(c) A supervising physician shall observe or review evidence of the physician assistant's performance of all tasks and procedures to be delegated to the physician assistant until assured of competency.

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"(d) The physician assistant and the supervising physician shall establish in writing transport and back-up procedures for the immediate care of patients who are in need of emergency care beyond the physician assistant's scope of practice for such times when a supervising physician is not on the premises.

"(e) A physician assistant and his or her supervising physician shall establish in writing guidelines for the adequate supervision of the physician assistant which shall include one or more of the following mechanisms:

"(1) Examination of the patient by a supervising physician the same day as care is given by the physician assistant;

"(2) Countersignature and dating of all medical records written by the physician assistant within thirty (30) days that the care was given by the physician assistant;

"(3) The supervising physician may adopt protocols to govern the performance of a physician assistant for some or all tasks. The minimum content for a protocol governing diagnosis and management as referred to in this section shall include the presence or absence of symptoms, signs, and other data necessary to establish a diagnosis or assessment, any appropriate tests or studies to order, drugs to recommend to the patient, and education to be given the patient. For protocols governing procedures, the protocol shall state the information to be given the patient, the nature of the consent to be obtained from the patient, the preparation and technique of the procedure, and the follow-up care. Protocols shall be developed by the physician, adopted from, or referenced to, texts or other sources. Protocols shall be signed and dated by the supervising physician and the physician assistant. The supervising physician shall review, countersign, and date a minimum of 5% sample of medical records of patients treated by the physician assistant functioning under these protocols within thirty (30) days. The physician shall select for review those cases which by diagnosis, problem, treatment or procedure represent, in his or her judgment, the most significant risk to the patient;

"(4) Other mechanisms approved in advance by the board.

"(f) The supervising physician has continuing responsibility to follow the progress of the patient and to make sure that the physician assistant does not function autonomously. The supervising physician shall be responsible for all medical services provided by a physician assistant under his or her supervision."

13. 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."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

14. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code, in that he committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:[2]

15. On or about February 2, 2016, Patient A underwent laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center in Fountain Valley, California. Respondent was the operating surgeon. Patient A remained hospitalized until on or about February 5, 2016, when, under Respondent's supervision, she was discharged by Physician Assistant, M.C. (PA M.C.).

16. On or about February 3, 2016, at approximately 4:38 a.m. and 11:10 a.m., Patient A had an elevated white blood cell (WBC) count with a left shift in the automated differential. That morning, at approximately 7:46 a.m., Patient A was seen by Respondent. Respondent noted that Patient A was slowly improving and, if Patient A was tolerating her bariatric liquid diet, she could be considered for discharge at 5:00 p.m.

17. By on or about the afternoon of February 3, 2016, Patient A's condition had declined. At approximately 2:21 p.m., PA M.C. ordered a CT scan of Patient A's chest, abdomen, and pelvis after discussion with Respondent. At approximately 3:41 p.m., Patient A had marked

[2] References to "Patient A" herein are used to protect patient privacy.

tachycardia with a heart rate of 150 beats per minute. In addition, Patient A had a low oxygen saturation level of 88%. Moreover, according to a physical therapy evaluation, Patient A was observed to have "severe pain with any touch or movement" and reported a pain score of "10." At approximately 8:20 p.m., CT scans were performed on Patient A. The CT scan of the chest revealed no evidence of pulmonary embolism, however, the CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis revealed "[m]oderate fluid present within both paracolic gutters extending into the pelvis[.]"

18. On or about February 4, 2016, Patient A had persistent tachycardia throughout the day, with a heart rate ranging between 108 to 132 beats per minute. Patient A also reported high pain levels, including pain scores of "6," "7," and "10." The same day, at approximately 6:38 a.m., Patient A continued to have an elevated WBC count with a left shift in the automated differential. At approximately 11:05 a.m., Respondent instructed PA M.C. to order a blood transfusion for Patient A to address her tachycardia symptoms, which she received at approximately 11:58 a.m.

19. On or about the afternoon of February 4, 2016, at approximately 1:28 p.m., the physical therapist noted that Patient A was lethargic, reported a pain score of "6," had "slow cadence" in her gait, and "require[d] encouragement to participate in therapy . . . and appear[ed] to lack motivation." In addition, the physical therapist noted that Patient A's vitals were "abnormal with HR in 150s and SpO2 at 89% after ambulation." Later that day, between approximately 1:28 p.m. and 5:16 p.m., Patient A reported pain scores of "6" and "7." At approximately 9:10 p.m., Patient A continued to have an elevated WBC count. No differential was obtained for this test and no further laboratory testing was ordered for Patient A on this day.

20. On or about February 5, 2016, at approximately 7:17 a.m., Patient A's temperature was elevated at 100.7°F. At approximately 8:03 a.m., Patient A reported a pain score of "6." At approximately 8:11 a.m., PA M.C. ordered Patient A to be discharged after discussion with Respondent.

21. On or about the morning of February 5, 2016, PA M.C. dictated the discharge summary for Patient A. According to the discharge summary prepared by PA M.C., Patient A was being discharged in "satisfactory condition" and her laboratory results were "normal" prior to

discharge. PA M.C. concluded that Patient A was "stable by the time of discharge" and "doing well without any issues or symptoms of dizziness or weakness." The discharge summary erroneously noted that Patient A underwent "a limited UGI study to confirm correct laparoscopic adjustable band placement." In addition, the discharge summary erroneously noted that an "abdominal drain was removed." No laboratory testing had been ordered or performed for Patient A on this day.

22. On or about the afternoon of February 5, 2016, at approximately 1:55 p.m., Patient A underwent a final physical therapy evaluation. Patient A reported a pain score of "6" with movement and was observed to fatigue quickly. Patient A also exhibited slow gait and short step length with slight veering to the left and right. At approximately 3:55 p.m., Patient A's heart rate was elevated at 104 beats per minute.

23. On or about the afternoon of February 5, 2016, Patient A was released from the hospital.

24. Beginning on or about February 10, 2016, Patient A was subsequently hospitalized with multiple complications.

25. On or about February 16, 2016, PA M.C. authenticated the February 5, 2016, discharge summary. On or about February 17, 2016, Respondent authenticated the February 5, 2016, discharge summary.

26. Patient A remained in the hospital until she passed away on or about April 9, 2016.

27. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A, which included, but was not limited to, the following:

A. Respondent failed to evaluate and examine Patient A prior to her discharge, despite the existence of multiple, abnormal post-operative findings, including, but not limited to, tachycardia, elevated WBC count, abnormal immature forms on differential, fluid in the pelvis and bilateral pelvic gutters on CT scan, elevated pain scores, difficulty ambulating, blood transfusion, and an elevated temperature on the morning of discharge.

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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

28. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 to disciplinary action under sections 2227, 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), 3501, and 3502, of the Code, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 1399.540, 1399.541, 1399.542, and 1399.545, in that he committed gross negligence, as the supervising physician, by failing to properly supervise PA M.C., a physician assistant, in the care and treatment of Patient A, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

A. Paragraphs 15 through 26, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

B. On or about June 19, 2007, the Physician Assistant Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, issued a Physician Assistant License to PA M.C.

C. On or about April 21, 2009, Respondent and PA M.C. entered into an agreement entitled, "Delegation of Services Agreement Between Supervising Physician and Physician Assistant and Written Supervision Guidelines" (Delegation of Services Agreement). The Delegation of Services Agreement defined the terms and conditions under which Respondent would serve as a supervising physician of PA M.C., including that Respondent "shall review, audit and countersign every medical record written by PA [M.C.] within 10 days (*no more than thirty (30) days) of the encounter*). (Emphasis in original.)

D. At all times relevant to the charges and allegations relating to Patient A herein, Respondent was PA M.C.'s supervising physician and both Respondent and PA M.C. were subject to the April 21, 2009, Delegation of Services Agreement.

E. PA M.C. failed to identify multiple signs of anastomotic leak following Patient A's February 2, 2016, surgery, which required further evaluation prior to discharge.

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F. PA M.C. failed to adequately and accurately document multiple aspects of Patient A's care and treatment in the February 5, 2016, discharge summary, including the surgical procedure and post-surgical procedures performed, the presence of an abdominal drain, the laboratory values prior to discharge, and Patient A's progress and status with respect to, *inter alia*, Patient A's pain, vital signs, and issues noted by other care providers.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Properly Supervise Physician Assistant)

29. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 to disciplinary action under sections 2234, subdivision (a), and 3502, of the Code, for unprofessional conduct in that he failed to properly supervise PA M.C., a physician assistant, in the care and treatment of Patient A, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

A. Paragraphs 15 through 26, and 28, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

B. Respondent allowed PA M.C. to treat and discharge Patient A with minimal supervision, despite the fact that Patient A exhibited multiple, abnormal post-operative findings up to and including Patient A's discharge on February 5, 2016.

C. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in violation of section 2234, and thereby provides cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

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FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Medical Records)

30. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2266, of the Code, and California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 1399.541 and 1399.542, in that Respondent, as the supervising physician of PA M.C. and through PA M.C.'s practice of medicine, Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of Patient A, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

A. Paragraphs 15 through 26, and 28, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

B. PA M.C. failed to adequately and accurately document multiple aspects of Patient A's care and treatment in the February 5, 2016, discharge summary, including the surgical procedure and post-surgical procedures performed, the presence of an abdominal drain, the laboratory values prior to discharge, and Patient A's progress and status with respect to, *inter alia*, Patient A's pain, vital signs, and issues noted by other care providers.

PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 72359, issued to Respondent Mir Baquar Ali, M.D.;

2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Mir Baquar Ali, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code, and advanced practice nurses;

3. Ordering Respondent Mir Baquar Ali, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and

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4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: July 5, 2019

KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER
Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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