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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	) ) )
CHARLES AUBREY EUBANKS, M.D.	) Case No. 02-2010-207961
Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 33728	) )
Respondent.	) ) )

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on April 5, 2013.

IT IS SO ORDERED March 8, 2013.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Rv:

Barbara Yaroslavsky, Chair

Panel A

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California		
2	GAIL M. HEPPELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
3	JANNSEN TAN Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 237826		
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7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8		ORE THE RD OF CALIFORNIA	
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10		7	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 02-2010-207961	
12	CHARLES AUBREY EUBANKS, M.D. 970 Camerado Drive, Suite 201	OAH No. 2012020769 STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND	
13	Cameron Park, CA 95682	DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C33728		
15	Respondent		
16	Respondent	··	
17			
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND A	GREED by and between the parties to the above-	
19	entitled proceedings that the following matters	are true:	
20	<u>P</u> A	<u>arties</u>	
21	1. Linda K. Whitney (Complainant) i	s the Executive Director of the Medical Board of	
22	California. She brought this action solely in h	er official capacity and is represented in this matter	
23	by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the	State of California, by Jannsen Tan, Deputy	
24	Attorney General.		
25	2. Charles Aubrey Eubanks, M.D. (R	espondent) is represented in this proceeding by	
26	attorney Robert B. Zaro, whose address is 131	5 I Street, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95814.	
27	3. On or about September 20, 1971, t	he Medical Board of California issued Physician's	
28	and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 33728 to Resp	ondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate	
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#### **CULPABILITY**

- 9. For the purpose of resolving Accusation No. 02-2010-207961 without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges contained in Accusation No. 02-2010-207961, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.
- 10. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Medical Board of California probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

## **CONTINGENCY**

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. Respondent agrees that if he ever petitions for early termination or modification of probation, or if the Board ever petitions for revocation of probation, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 02-2010-207961 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.
- 13. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

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

#### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C33728 issued to Respondent, Charles Aubrey Eubanks, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

- 1. <u>EDUCATION COURSE</u>. 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. PRESCRIBING PRACTICES COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in prescribing practices equivalent to the Prescribing Practices Course at the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine (Program), approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the program with any information and documents that the Program 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 prescribing practices course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A prescribing practices 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. <u>MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping equivalent to the Medical Record Keeping Course offered by the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine (Program), approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the program with any information and documents that the Program 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.

4. 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.

- 5. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS</u>. During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants.
- 6. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u>. 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.
- 7. 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.

## 8. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

# Compliance with Probation Unit

Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit and all terms and conditions of this Decision.

# 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).

#### 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.

- 9. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u>. 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.
- 10. 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 in California 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. All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-practice. 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 a clinical training 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 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; and General Probation Requirements.

- 11. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>. 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.
- 12. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>. 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.
- 13. <u>LICENSE SURRENDER</u>. 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 or her 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.

PROBATION MONITORING COSTS. Respondent shall pay the costs associated 14. 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, Robert B. Zaro. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

CHARLES AUBREY EUBANKS, M.D. Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Charles Aubrey Eubanks, 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:

Attorney for Respondent

## ENDORSEMENT

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

# **ENDORSEMENT** The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California. Dated: 11/19/1012 Respectfully submitted, KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California GAIL M. HEPPELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General Jannsen Tan Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant SA2011102362 10975131.doc

# Exhibit A

Accusation No. 02-2010-207961

**FILED** STATE OF CALIFORNIA KAMALA D. HARRIS MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA Attorney General of California SACRAMENTO JANVORY 23 2012 2 GAIL M. HEPPELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 Jannsen L. Tan Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 237826 1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 445-3496 6 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 7 Attorneys for Complainant 8 9 BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 10 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 11 12 Case No. 02-2010-207961 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: ACCUSATION 13 CHARLES AUBREY EUBANKS, M.D. 970 Camerado Drive, Suite 201 14 Cameron Park, CA 95682 15 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C33728 16 Respondent. 17 18 Complainant alleges: 19 **PARTIES** Linda K. Whitney (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity 20 1. as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs. 21 On or about September 20, 1971, the Medical Board of California issued Physician's 22 2. and Surgeon's Certificate Number C33728 to Charles Aubrey Eubanks, M.D. (Respondent). The 23 license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein, and will 24 25 expire on December 31, 2011. 26 /// 27 /// 28 ///

Accusation (Case No. 02-2010-207961)

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Medical Board of California (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
  - 4. Section 2234 of the Code states:

#### § 2234. Unprofessional conduct

The Division of Medical Quality<sup>1</sup> 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 [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].
- "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(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.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

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<sup>1</sup> California Business and Professions Code section 2002, as amended and effective January 1, 2008, provides that, unless otherwise expressly provided, the term "board" as used in the State Medical Practice Act (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 2000, et seq.) means the "Medical Board of California," and references to the "Division of Medical Quality" and Division of Licensing" in the Act or any other provision of law shall be deemed to refer to the Board.

1	5. Section 2238 of the Code provides:
2	"§ 2238. Violation of federal or state statute or regulation regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances; unprofessional conduct
4	"A violation of any federal statute or federal regulation or any of the statutes or regulations of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances constitutes unprofessional conduct."
5 6	
	6. Section 2241 of the Code provides:
7 8	"§ 2241. Provision of prescription drugs and controlled substances to addicts; conditions; definitions
9	"(a) A physician and surgeon may prescribe, dispense, or administer prescription drugs, including prescription controlled substances, to an addict under his or her treatment for a purpose other than maintenance on, or detoxification from,
0	prescription drugs or controlled substances.
1	"(b) A physician and surgeon may prescribe, dispense, or administer prescription
2	drugs or prescription controlled substances to an addict for purposes of maintenance on, or detoxification from, prescription drugs or controlled substances
3	only as set forth in subdivision (c) or in Sections 11215, 11217, 11217.5, 11218, 11219, and 11220 of the Health and Safety Code. Nothing in this subdivision shall
4	authorize a physician and surgeon to prescribe, dispense, or administer dangerous drugs or controlled substances to a person he or she knows or reasonably believes
5	is using or will use the drugs or substances for a nonmedical purpose.
7	"(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), prescription drugs or controlled substances
8	may also be administered or applied by a physician and surgeon, or by a registered nurse acting under his or her instruction and supervision, under the following
9	circumstances: (1) Emergency treatment of a patient whose addiction is complicated by the
0	presence of incurable disease, acute accident, illness, or injury, or the infirmities attendant upon age.
1	(2) Treatment of addicts in state-licensed institutions where the patient is kept under restraint and control, or in city or county jails or state prisons.
2	(3) Treatment of addicts as provided for by Section 11217.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
3	(d)(1) For purposes of this section and Section 2241.5, "addict" means a person whose actions are characterized by craving in combination with one or more of the
4	following:
5	<ul><li>(A) Impaired control over drug use.</li><li>(B) Compulsive use.</li></ul>
6	<ul><li>(C) Continued use despite harm.</li><li>(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a person whose drug-seeking behavior is</li></ul>
27	primarily due to the inadequate control of pain is not an addict within the meaning of this section or Section 2241.5."
28	of this section of because and this.

7. Section 2242 of the Code provides:

"§ 2242. Prescribing, dispensing or furnishing dangerous drugs without prior examination and medical indication; unprofessional conduct; exceptions

- "(a) Prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing dangerous drugs as defined in Section 4022 without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication, constitutes unprofessional conduct.
- "(b) No licensee shall be found to have committed unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this section if, at the time the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished, any of the following applies:
- (1) The licensee was a designated physician and surgeon or podiatrist serving in the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and if the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished only as necessary to maintain the patient until the return of his or her practitioner, but in any case no longer than 72 hours.
- (2) The licensee transmitted the order for the drugs to a registered nurse or to a licensed vocational nurse in an inpatient facility, and if both of the following conditions exist:
- (A) The practitioner had consulted with the registered nurse or licensed vocational nurse who had reviewed the patient's records.
- (B) The practitioner was designated as the practitioner to serve in the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be.
- (3) The licensee was a designated practitioner serving in the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and was in possession of or had utilized the patient's records and ordered the renewal of a medically indicated prescription for an amount not exceeding the original prescription in strength or amount or for more than one refill.
- (4) The licensee was acting in accordance with Section 120582 of the Health and Safety Code"

8. Section 725 of the Code provides:

"§ 725. Excessive prescription or administration of drugs or treatment; diagnostic procedures; diagnostic or treatment facilities; misdemeanor; punishment; immunity from prosecution

"(a) Repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or administering of drugs or treatment, repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic procedures, or repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic or treatment facilities as determined by the standard of the community of licensees is unprofessional conduct for a physician and surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, psychologist, physical therapist, chiropractor, optometrist, speech-language pathologist, or audiologist.

- "(b) Any person who engages in repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing or administering of drugs or treatment is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than six hundred dollars (\$600), or by imprisonment for a term of not less than 60 days nor more than 180 days, or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- "(c) A practitioner who has a medical basis for prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or administering dangerous drugs or prescription controlled substances shall not be subject to disciplinary action or prosecution under this section.
- "(d) No physician and surgeon shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this section for treating intractable pain in compliance with Section 2241.5."
- 9. Section 2266 of the Code provides:

# § 2266. Record maintenance; services to patients

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.

#### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AT ISSUE

- 10. Methadone is a synthetic narcotic analgesic with multiple actions quantitatively similar to those of morphine. It is a dangerous drug as defined in section 4022, a Schedule II controlled substance and narcotic as defined by section 11055, subdivision (c) of the Health and Safety Code, and a Schedule II controlled substance as defined by section 1308.12 (c) of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Methadone can produce drug dependence of the morphine type and, therefore, has the potential for being abused. Psychic dependence, physical dependence, and tolerance may develop upon repeated administration of Methadone, and it should be prescribed and administered with the same degree of caution appropriate to the use of morphine. Methadone should be used with caution and in reduced dosage in patients who are concurrently receiving other narcotic analgesics. The usual adult dosage is 2.5 mg to 10 mg every three to four hours (maximum 80 mgs per day), as necessary for severe acute pain.
- 11. Fentanyl transdermal system (the generic name for "Duragesic," and "ACTIQ." Fentanyl is an opioid analgesic. Fentanyl is a dangerous drug as defined in section 4022, and a Schedule II controlled substance as defined by section 11055 (c) (8) of the Health and Safety Code, and a Schedule II controlled substance as defined by section 1308.12 of Title 21 of the

Code of Federal Regulations. Fentanyl's primary effects are anesthesia and sedation. It is a strong opioid medication and indicated only for treatment of chronic pain (such as that of malignancy) that cannot be managed by lesser means and requires continuous opioid administration. It presents a risk of serious or life threatening hypoventilation. When patients are receiving it, the dosage of central nervous system depressants drugs should be reduced at least 50%. Use with other central nervous system depressants, including alcohol, can result in increased risk to the patient. It should be used with caution in individuals with a history of alcohol or drug abuse, particularly if they are outside of a medically controlled environment. It can produce drug dependence similar to that of morphine and has the potential for abuse. It is physically and psychologically addictive. Duragesic patches are available in 25 mg/hr, 50 mg/hr, 75 mg/hr and 100 mg/hr. Patches over 25 mg/hr should only be used in opioid tolerant patients. Duragesic, 100 patches contain 10 mg Fentanyl, and provide analgesic effects approximately equivalent to 315–404 mg oral morphine per day.

- 12. Clonazepam (generic name for "Klonopin"), is an anticonvulsant of the benzodiazepine class of drugs. It is a dangerous drug as defined in section 4022, a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined by section 11057 of the Health and Safety Code, and a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined by section 1308.14 of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations. It produces central nervous system depression and should be used with caution with other central nervous system depressant drugs. Like other Benzodiazepines, it can produce psychological and physical dependence. Withdrawal symptoms similar to those noted with barbiturates and alcohol have been noted upon abrupt discontinuance of Klonopin. The initial dosage for adults should not exceed 1.5 mg per day divided in three doses.
- 13. Alprazolam (generic name for "Xanax") is a psychotropic triazolo analogue of the benzodiazepine class of central nervous system active compounds. Xanax is used for the management of anxiety disorders or for the short term relief of the symptoms of anxiety. It is a dangerous drug as defined in section 4022, a Schedule IV controlled substance and narcotic as defined by section 11057, subdivision (d) of the Health and Safety Code, and a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined by section 1308.14 (c) of Title 21 of the Code of Federal

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Regulations. Xanax has a central nervous system depressant effect and patients should be cautioned about the simultaneous ingestion of alcohol and other CNS depressant drugs during. treatment with Xanax. Addiction prone individuals (such as drug addicts or alcoholics) should be under surveillance when receiving Alprazolam because of the predisposition of such patients to habituation and dependence. The usual starting dose of Xanax is 0.25 to .5 mg, three times per day (max 1.5 mg/day).

Hydromorphone hydrochloride (generic name for "Dilaudid") is a dangerous drug 14. as defined in section 4022 and a Schedule II controlled substance as defined by section 11055, subdivision (d) of the Health and Safety Code, and a Schedule II controlled substance as defined by section 1308.12 (d) of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Dilaudid is a hydrogenated ketone of Morphine and is a narcotic analgesic. Its principal therapeutic use is relief of pain. Psychic dependence, physical dependence, and tolerance may develop upon repeated administration of narcotics; therefore, Dilaudid should be prescribed and administered with caution. Physical dependence, the condition in which continued administration of the drug is required to prevent the appearance of a withdrawal syndrome, usually assumes clinically significant proportions after several weeks of continued use. Side effects include drowsiness, mental clouding, respiratory depression, and vomiting. The usual starting dosage for injections is 1-2 mg. The usual oral dose is 2 mg every two to four hours as necessary. Patients receiving other narcotic analgesics, anesthetics, phenothiazines, tranquilizers, sedative-hypnotics, tricyclic antidepressants and other central nervous system depressants, including alcohol, may exhibit an additive central nervous depression. When such combined therapy is contemplated, the use of one or both agents should be reduced. Dilaudid comes in ampoules containing 1 mg, 2 mg, or 4 mgs hydromorphone hydrochloride per ml, and each mg is equianalagesic to 10 mg morphine sulfate.

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

(Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(b))

Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234 (b), in that he was grossly negligent in his care and treatment of Patient R.T.

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- 16. Respondent is a Psychiatrist with offices at 970 Camerado Dr. Suite 201 Cameron Park, CA 95682, who saw Patient R.T. on or about February 26, 2009 for outpatient psychiatric services.
- 17. Prior to seeing Respondent as his medical provider, Patient R.T. was a patient at the Bi-Valley Methadone Clinic in Sacramento, and was on 135 mg of Methadone at that time. R.T. was also using 480 mg of Oxycontin between 2008 and 2009, shooting it intravenously in an abusive fashion. R.T. had been treated on numerous occasions for addiction by different physicians and in several hospitals and recovery centers. On or around June of 2008, R.T., while in county jail; jumped from the second floor catwalk and broke a bone in the heel of his foot.
- 18. On or about February 26, 2009, Respondent saw R.T. in his office for an initial visit. R.T. told Respondent that he has had two overdoses in the past, fights, and has been in jail. Respondent did not document his clinical impression of this visit. On the intake form, R.T. wrote that the major stressful things bothering him now are, "insomnia/severe anxiety/depression." R.T. also wrote that the main reason for his treatment is "to have a manageable life."
- On or about March 5, 2009, Respondent saw R.T. for another visit. The history obtained during this visit by the Respondent from R.T. and his father R.T.S., indicate that R.T. has been taking 2 mg of Alprazolam that was not prescribed and obtained from the internet; and that cocaine was found in his urine when he went for a procedure in the hospital. R.T.'s father, R.T.S. also called the police because the patient tied something around his neck. Respondent indicated that this was not a suicide attempt, but a suicide gesture. In his notes, Respondent did not elaborate any further on the above history. Respondent prescribed R.T., Alprazolam 2 mg, 4-6 mg a day with a quantity of 50.
- On or about March 13, 2009, R.T. returned for another visit. R.T. told Respondent that he is "withdrawing, lots of pain." R.T. had surgery on his ankle, and his "blood pressure was through the roof." R.T. indicated that he hates Suboxone and that at one point; he was using Oxycontin 80 mg, six times a day. R.T. said that his past general practitioner had maintained him on Methadone for two years. R.T. stated that "I have pain and I have dependence." Respondent did not obtain prior medical records from R.T.'s past practitioner. Respondent did not perform a

physical examination. There is no documentation as to date, time, duration for any of the conditions mentioned by R.T. Respondent did not get a rating for pain or make any notation regarding signs and symptoms of a chronic pain condition. Respondent did not describe the risk and benefits of the medications he prescribed to patient. Respondent then received Methadone 10 mg, quantity 450 (30 day supply) without adequate documentation as to dose or duration for this narcotic. The patient was recommended to take 150 mgs of Methadone a day.

- 21. On or about March 19, 2009, R.T. returned for another visit. R.T. told Respondent he has been unable to sleep. R.T. told Respondent that he had taken 165 mgs of Methadone plus Clonazepam, with no indication as how R.T. obtained the Clonazepam. Respondent then prescribed Alprazolam 2 mgs, 50 quantity and Pristiq 50 mgs, 30 day quantity at this visit. Respondent did not document any plan of treatment for R.T. with respect to his psychiatric or addiction problems.
- 22. R.T. was going to be incarcerated at the Sacramento County Jail due to a pending court case. Respondent wrote a letter dated March 19, 2009, addressed to the Medical Staff of Sacramento County Jail. In the letter Respondent states that R.T. has been receiving outpatient psychiatric diagnoses and treatment from his office since March 5, 2009. His diagnoses include "polydrug dependence and abuse as well as mood disorder, NOS." Respondent adds that R.T. is well stabilized and on a current regiment of Methadone 150 mgs per day, Pristiq 50 mgs per day, and Alprazolam 4 to 6 mgs per day. Respondent also informed the medical staff about the suicide attempt which occurred during R.T.'s last incarceration in the county jail back in 2008.
- past medication history from R.T. and R.T.S (R.T.'s father). R.T. told Respondent that he had been treated with a combination of Methadone and Duragesic in the past (Duragesic 100 mgs, every 48 to 72 hrs.). Respondent then prescribed Duragesic 100 mgs, 10 quantity for R.T.'s chronic pain in addition to his earlier prescription for Methadone and, Alprazolam on March 19, 2009. Respondent indicated that he was "just continuing" what the patient had been on in the past.

- 24. On or about April 6 and 16, 2009, Respondent prescribed Duragesic 100 mg, 10 quantity, Methadone 10 mg, 450 quantity and Alprazolam, 130 quantity.
- 25. On or about April 20, 2009, Respondent saw R.T. for another office visit.

  Respondent instructed R.T. and R.T.S. to contact pain management specialist Dr. J.H. R.T.S. subsequently informed Respondent that Dr. J.H. was not taking in new patients. Respondent did not contact any other specialists nor contact Dr. J.H. until sometime in January 2011.
- 26. On or about April 24, 2009, Respondent increased the Methadone prescription to 10 mg, 720 quantity, which was increased from 450, on the previous prescription. Respondent also prescribed Duragesic 100 mg, 20 quantity. No rationale was documented for the increase in the quantity.
- On or about April 24, 2009, R.T. was going to be incarcerated at the Sacramento County Jail as part of the resolution of his pending court case. R.T. attempted to check himself into jail, but was denied because he was heavily medicated. R.T. returned the next day and turned himself in to the Rio Consumes Correctional Center. Respondent sent a letter dated April 24, 2009, to Dr. S, the Medical Director at the Sacramento County Jail, stating that R.T. was being treated by him for opioid dependency, chronic pain, and mood instability. Respondent discussed the patient with Dr. S., and reiterated to Dr. S that Methadone was prescribed for maintenance and not for pain. Respondent assured Dr. S that he was only prescribing the Methadone as a "bridge" until R.T. could find a specialist. Respondent listed R.T.'s medication as Methadone 150 mgs per day, Duragesic 100 mgs per 72 hrs, Alprazolam 1 mg twice a day, Pristiq 50 mgs per day.
- 28. On or about May 29, 2009, R.T. indicated to Respondent that he wanted Methadone, Duragesic and Alprazolam. Respondent indicated that he is not willing to renew the Duragesic or Alprazolam. Respondent continued to prescribe Methadone 10 mgs at 720 quantity, and Clonazepam 2 mg at 30 quantity.
- 29. On or about July 2, 2009, Respondent wrote to a psychologist indicating that R.T. needed comprehensive psychological testing. He described R.T. as having a history of "polysubstance dependence and other self destructive behaviors." Respondent did not follow up

on the referral.

- 30. Respondent increased R.T.'s prescription for Methadone to 200 mgs a day for 30 days due to an increase in pain.
- 31. R.T. did not show up for his August 20 and 27 appointments. In a letter dated August 27, 2009, Respondent wrote R.T. denying R.T.'s request for an early refill. Respondent also stated that after surgery, he was going to put R.T.'s Methadone back to 150 mgs per day.
- 32. In a letter dated December 9, 2009, R.T.S wrote to Respondent that R.T.'s pending court case has been resolved. As part of the resolution, R.T. was required to be incarcerated for three months. R.T.S. requested Respondent to contact Sacramento Jail Medical Department to give them the necessary background and to let them know what prescriptions R.T. is taking.
- 33. In a letter dated December 10, 2009, Respondent wrote the Medical Department of the Sacramento County Jail, informing them that R.T. has received psychiatric treatment from Respondent on a once a week basis, beginning February 11, 2009. Respondent indicated that R.T. was on, "an outpatient medication regimen of Methadone 200 mgs, q.d., Clonazepam 4 mgs h.s. and 2 mgs q.d., and Pristiq 50 mgs q.d." He added that, "prior medication trials with atypical antipsychotics and mood stabilizers had not been effective." He stated that R.T.'s diagnosis is "opioid dependence and mood disorder NOS." He also indicated that R.T.'s past psychiatric history includes a serious suicide attempt during a prior incarceration. He elaborated that the suicide attempt occurred during R.T.'s withdrawal when all psychotropics and opioids were discontinued.
- 34. In a letter dated December 17, 2009, Respondent wrote R.T.S. indicating that R.T. had been released earlier and that he is providing R.T. with a 30 day early refill because R.T. reported that his medicine was not returned to him when he was released from jail.
- 35. In a letter dated February 24, 2010, Dr. G.L. wrote to Respondent indicating that it has been a week since the surgery to remove the screws from the left heel. Dr. G.L. wrote that "his pain has been okay." Respondent continued to prescribe Methadone and Clonazepam.
- 36. On or about May 14, 2010, R.T.S. wrote Respondent stating that R.T. is currently serving the last three months of his sentence. R.T.S. requested that Respondent again write the

Sacramento Jail Medical Department to give them the necessary background on R.T. and let them know his current prescriptions.

- 37. In a letter dated May 14, 2010, Respondent wrote the Sacramento Jail Department a virtually identical letter to the letter he sent the same department beforehand on December 10, 2009, informing them that R.T. has received psychiatric treatment from Respondent on a once a week basis, beginning February 11, 2009; that R.T. was on "an outpatient medication regimen of Methadone 200 mgs, q.d., Clonazepam 4 mgs h.s. and 2 mgs q.d., and Pristiq 50 mgs q.d." He added that, "prior medication trials with atypical antipsychotics and mood stabilizers had not been effective;" that R.T.'s diagnosis is "opioid dependence and mood disorder NOS." R.T.'s past psychiatric history includes a serious suicide attempt during a prior incarceration when all psychotropics and opioids were discontinued.
- 38. On or about May 17, 2010, R.T. again returned to the county jail to turn himself in. R.T. was still receiving Methadone and Clonazepam from Respondent, almost a year after Respondent had assured Dr. S that he was only prescribing the controlled substances as a "bridge." Dr. S interviewed R.T., and R.T. denied chronic pain as the reason he was getting Methadone.
- 39. While R.T. was in jail, detoxifying from the drugs, he again jumped from the second story of the catwalk of the county jail and broke bones in his feet.
- 40. R.T. was released from jail on or about July 1, 2010. Sometime thereafter, Respondent added Duragesic 100 mg, 11 quantity and Dilaudid 4 mgs, 150 quantity, to R.T.'s drug regimen. No documentation exist to support the use of these narcotics for either addiction medicine or pain purposes.
- 41. On or about July 16, 2010, R.T. indicated to Respondent that he is supposed to be taking 8 mg of Dilaudid, every 6 hours. This number did not match Respondent's initial prescription for Dilaudid which was 4 mgs.
- 42. In an E-mail dated July 23, 2010, R.T. again reiterated that the correct Dilaudid dose is 8 mg, and not 4 mg. R.T. also indicated that he needed to switch back to Alprazolam as well.

- 43. Respondent continued to prescribe Methadone, Clonazepam, and Alprazolam. On or about July 23, 2010, Respondent prescribed 90 Dilaudid at 8 mg.
- 44. In an E-mail dated August 1, 2010, R.T. wrote that he forgot to have "his patch and Methadone refilled," and that he did not refill his "Dilaudid prescription until 2 days ago." He indicated that to make up the difference, he had to take more than the "scribed of my Mdone". He states further that he does not have enough "patches or Dones to last until my next apt." He requested Respondent to write out more prescriptions. R.T. indicated that he sat down with his father, R.T.S., and they both came up with what they indicated was the correct amount of medication. R.T. wrote, "4 boxes of Duragesic 100 mcg, 600 Methadone 10, 150 Alprazolam 2 mg, 150 Dilaudid 8 mg."
- 45. On or about August 6, 2010, Respondent prescribed, "10 mg Methadone 600 quantity, 8 mg Dilaudid 90 quantity, 100 mg Duragesic 12 quantity." This was followed by a prescription on August 13, 2010, for "2 Xanax XR [Alprazolam] 30 and 4 mg Dilaudid 84 quantity." Respondent noted in his patient notes in all caps the words "NO MORE EARLY REFILLS".
- 46. From March 5, 2009 throughout December 2010, Respondent prescribed a monthly regimen of Methadone, Alprazolam, Clonazepam, and Pristiq to R.T. Respondent prescribed Duragesic on March, April 2009 and July through December 2010. Respondent added Dilaudid to R.T.'s prescription from July 2010 throughout December.
- 47. Respondent's actions constitute gross negligence and subject him to discipline within the meaning of Section 2234(b) in that:
- a. Respondent prescribed controlled substances when there was no medical indication for such treatment.
  - b. Respondent failed to address R.T.'s drug misuse or diversion.
- c. Respondent did not perform random urine toxicology, to send the patient to outside 12 step programs or even suggest inpatient residential rehabilitative services.
- d. Respondent based his prescriptions for controlled substances on requests from his patient R.T. and/or his father R.T.S.

- e. Respondent continued R.T. on Benzodiazepines at high doses without suggesting detoxification from these agents and without any checks and balance systems to prevent abuse.
- f. Respondent failed to consider and/or document use of other non-addictive medications and its effectiveness in treating pain.
- g. Respondent relied on information from R.T. and R.T.S. regarding patient's prior dosage for Methadone instead of verifying past dosage with patient's prior physician.
- h. Respondent did not conduct an adequate medical history and physical examination which includes an assessment of pain, physical and psychological functioning, substance abuse history, history of prior pain treatment, history of underlying or coexistent diseases or conditions, and clear documentation of the medical indication for the use of a controlled substance.
- i. Respondent failed to maintain medical records which documented the pain treatments, descriptions and indication of pain levels, and rationale for providing continued use of controlled substances.
- j. Respondent failed to make a clearly delineated treatment plan that charts, examines, and details a plan for improvement of physical, psychological and psychosocial functioning, and how pharmalogic and rehabilitation therapies will be tailored towards this end.
- k. Respondent failed to obtain written consent "pain agreement" to document patient's understanding of the treatment plan, and how said medications will be employed for pain relief. The risk of providing high dose opioids and Benzodiazepines were not discussed.
- 1. Respondent failed to chart progress notes which assess use and continuation/modification of the controlled substances in this plan on a monthly, quarterly, or semiannual basis to demonstrate improvement or lack thereof in the patient's condition.
- m. Respondent did not follow through with required consultations with pain specialists where there is the presence of intractable pain or there has been limited progress on the patient's part in reducing overall opiate load.

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# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts) (Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(c))

- 48. Complainant realleges paragraphs 16 through 50, and its subdivisions, inclusive above, incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.
- 49. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Business and Professions Code section 2234 (c), for his repeated acts of negligence in his care and treatment of patient R.T., which include, but are not limited to the conduct alleged in paragraph 50 (a) through (m) above.

## THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Excessive Prescribing (Bus. & Prof. Code § 725)

- 50. Complainant realleges paragraphs 16 through 50, and its subdivisions, inclusive above, incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.
- Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate is subject to disciplinary action under Business and Professions Code section 725, in that he engaged in repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or administering of drugs relating to his care and treatment of Patient R.T. Respondent excessively prescribed the following drugs without any clinical indication:

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DATE	DRUG	QTY.	MGMS
March 5, 2009	Alprazolam	50	2
March 13, 2009	Methadone	450	10
March 19, 2009	Alprazolam	- 50	2
	Pristiq	30 .	50
March 20, 2009	Duragesic	10	100
April 6, 2009	Duragesic	10	100
	Methadone	50	10
	Alprazolam	130	.5
April 16, 2009	Pristig	30	50
	Alprazolam	140	1
April 24, 2009	Duragesic	20	100
	Methadone	720	10
May 27, 2009	Pristig	30	50
	Methadone	720	10
June 1, 2009	Buspan	180	10
June 8, 2009	Lorazepam	60	1
June 22, 2009	Pristig	30	50
	Clonazepam	30	2
June 26, 2009	Clonazepam	60	1
June 28, 2009	Methadone	720	10

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DATE	DRUG	QTY	MGMS
June 29, 2009	Clonazepam	75	2
July 10, 2009	Zyprexa	30	5
July 17, 2009	Cialis	10	20
	Clonazepam	90	2
August 3, 2009	Methadone	600.	10
August 16, 2009	Clonazepam	90	2
September 3, 2009	Methodone	600	10
September 15, 2009	Clonazepam	90	2
October 1, 2009	Pristig	30	50
October 2, 2009	Methadone	600	10
October 14, 2009	Clonazepam	45	
October 28, 2009	Clonazepam	45	2 2
November 1, 2009	Methadone	600	10
November 19, 2009	Clonazepam	45	2
November 20, 2009	Clonazepam	90	2
December 1, 2009	Methadone	600	10
December 17, 2009	Methadone	600	10
December 18, 2009	Clonazepam	90	
January 16, 2010	Clonazepam	90	2 2
January 10, 2010	Methadone	600	$\frac{2}{10}$
February 19, 2010	Methadone	600	10
1 Columny 19, 2010	Clonazepam	90	2
March 19, 2010	Methodone	600	10
March 21, 2010	Clonazapam	90	2
April 1, 2010	Cialis	30	20
April 1, 2010	Clonazepam	90	$\frac{20}{2}$
April 18,2010	Methadone	600	10
May 13, 2010	Clonazepam	90	$\frac{10}{2}$
May 17, 2010	Methadone	600	$\frac{2}{10}$
July 9, 2010	Duragesic	11	100
July 9, 2010	Dilaudid	150	4
	Clonazepam	90	2
T1 16 2010		600	$\frac{2}{10}$
July 16,2010 July 23, 2010	Methodone		8
July 23, 2010	Dilaudid	90	2
July 23, 2010	Alprazolam	120 600	10
August 6, 2010	Methadone	90	8
	Dilaudid	12	100
Assert 12, 2010	Duragesic	30	2
August 13, 2010	Alprazolam Dilaudid	84	4
Santamban 2, 2010		600	10
September 2, 2010	Methadone		100
Cantombor 0, 2010	Dilaudid	10	4
September 9, 2010	Dilaudid	90	$\frac{4}{2}$
Santonshar 24 2010	Clonazepam	90	8
September 24, 2010	Dilaudid		10
October 1, 2010	Methadone	600	
0.1.7.0010	Duragesic	10	100
October 7, 2010	Clonazepam	90	2
October 8, 2010	Actiq	50	800
October 22, 2010	Clonazepam	90	2
	Dilaudid	90	8

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DATE	DRUG	QTY	MGMS
October 29, 2010	Duragesic	10	100
	Methadone	600	10
November 22, 2010	Clonazepam	60	2
	Methadone	600	10
	Dilaudid	90	8
December 3, 2010	Clonazepam	60	2
December 10, 2010	Duragesic	10	100
	Truzodone	30	100
December 20, 2010	Methadone	600	10
	Dilaudid	90	8
December 27, 2010	Clonazepam	90	2

## FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Prescribing Controlled Drugs to an Addict)
(Bus. & Prof. Code §2241)

- 52. Complainant realleges paragraphs 19 through 50, and its subdivisions, inclusive above, incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.
- 53. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2241 of the Code and in that he prescribed controlled substances to a known addict.

#### FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Prescribing Dangerous Drugs Without Prior Examination and Medical Indication)
(Bus. & Prof. Code §2242)

- 54. Complainant realleges paragraphs 19 through 50, and its subdivisions, inclusive above, incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.
- 55. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2242 of the Code and in that he prescribed dangerous drugs without prior examination and/or medical indication.

## SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Record Keeping) (Bus. & Prof. § 2266))

- 56. Complainant realleges paragraphs 19 through 50, and its subdivisions, inclusive above, incorporated by reference as if fully set forth
- 57. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266, in that he failed to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to his care and treatment of patient R.T.

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# **PRAYER** WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision: Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number C33728, 4 issued to Charles Aubrey Eubanks, M.D. 5 Revoking, suspending or denying approval of, Charles Aubrey Eubanks, M.D.'s 2. 6 authority to supervise physician assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code; 7 If Respondent is placed on probation, ordering, Charles Aubrey Eubanks, M.D. to pay 8 the Medical Board of California the costs of probation monitoring; 9 Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. 4. 10 12 DATED: January 23, 2012 13 Executive Director Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs 14 State of California 15 Complainant SA2011102362 10758727.doc 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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