

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)

JAMES KIRK CLOPTON, M.D.)

MBC No. 02-2011-216149

Physician's & Surgeon's)
Certificate No. G 69788)

Petitioner.)
_____)

**DENIAL BY OPERATION OF LAW
PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION**

No action having been taken on the petition for reconsideration, filed by Petitioner, James Kirk Clopton, M.D., and the time for action having expired at 5 p.m. on October 17, 2014, the petition is deemed denied by operation of law.

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)	
)	MBC No. 02-2011-216149
JAMES KIRK CLOPTON, M.D.)	
)	
Physician's and Surgeon's)	ORDER GRANTING STAY
Certificate No. G69788)	
)	(Government Code Section 11521)
)	
_____ Petitioner.)	

Petitioner, James Kirk Clopton, M.D., has filed a Request for Stay of execution of the Decision in this matter with an effective date of September 18, 2014.

Execution is stayed until October 17, 2014.

This stay is granted solely for the purpose of allowing the Petitioner to file a Petition for Reconsideration.

DATED: September 16, 2014



KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER
Executive Director
Medical Board of California

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

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 02-2011-216149

12 **JAMES KIRK CLOPTON, M.D.**
13 989 Governor Drive, Suite 101
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

**DEFAULT DECISION
AND ORDER**

14 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.
15 G-69788

[Gov. Code, § 11520]

16 Respondent.

17
18 FINDINGS OF FACT

19 1. On or about March 28, 2014, Complainant Kimberly Kirchmeyer, in her official
20 capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer
21 Affairs, filed Accusation No. 02-2011-216149 against James Kirk Clopton, M.D. (Respondent)
22 before the Medical Board of California.

23 2. On or about September 17, 1990, the Medical Board of California (Board) issued
24 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G-69788 to Respondent. That license was in full force
25 and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2016,
26 unless renewed. Attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein is a Certification of
27 Licensure.

28 3. On or about March 28, 2014, Kelly Montalbano, an employee of the Complainant

1 Agency, served by Certified Mail a copy of Accusation No. 02-2011-216149, Statement to
2 Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections 11507.5,
3 11507.6, and 11507.7 to Respondent's address of record with the Board, which was and is 989
4 Governor Drive, Suite 101, El Dorado Hills, California 95762. Respondent was also served by
5 Certified Mail at 1037 Suncastr Lane, Suite 100, El Dorado Hills, California 95762. A copy of the
6 Accusation, the related documents, and Declaration of Service are attached as Exhibit B, and are
7 incorporated herein by reference.

8 4. In April 2014, one package of the aforementioned documents was returned by the
9 U.S. Postal Service marked as unable to forward and the other package was returned by the U.S.
10 Postal Service marked as unclaimed.

11 5. On or about April 28, 2014, Michelle Solario, an employee of the Complainant
12 Agency, served by Certified Mail a copy of the Accusation No. 02-2011-216149, Statement to
13 Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Government Code sections 11507.5,
14 11507.6, and 11507.7 to Respondent's address at 6485 Buckeye Lane, Granite Bay, California
15 95746. A copy of the Declaration of Service is attached as Exhibit C, and is incorporated herein
16 by reference.

17 6. On or about May 15, 2014, the Board received a U.S. Postal Service return receipt,
18 indicating that Respondent received the documents referred to in paragraph 5 above on or about
19 May 13, 2014. A true and correct copy of said return receipt is attached as Exhibit D and is
20 incorporated herein by reference.

21 7. Service of the Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of
22 Government Code section 11505, subdivision (c).

23 8. Government Code section 11506 states, in pertinent part:

24 "(c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent files a
25 notice of defense, and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all parts of the accusation
26 not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense shall constitute a waiver of
27 respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing."

28 9. Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon him

1 of the Accusation, and therefore waived his right to a hearing on the merits of Accusation No. 02-
2 2011-216149.

3 10. California Government Code section 11520 states, in pertinent part:

4 "(a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the hearing, the
5 agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence
6 and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent."

7 11. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Board finds
8 Respondent is in default. The Board will take action without further hearing, and based on
9 Respondent's express admissions by way of default and the evidence before it contained in
10 Exhibits A, B, C and D, as well as the attached declaration of Michael McBeth, M.D. in Exhibit
11 E, finds that the allegations in Accusation No. 02-2011-216149 are true.

12 DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

13 1. Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent James Kirk Clopton, M.D. has
14 subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G-69788 to discipline.

15 2. A copy of the Accusation and the related documents and Declarations of Service are
16 attached.

17 3. The agency has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.

18 4. The Medical Board of California is authorized to revoke Respondent's Physician's
19 and Surgeon's Certificate based upon the following violations alleged in the Accusation:

20 a. Respondent was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of his patients in
21 violation of Business and Professions code section 2234, subdivision (b).

22 b. Respondent was repeatedly negligent in the care and treatment of his patients
23 in violation of Business and Professions code section 2234, subdivision (c).

24 c. Respondent prescribed controlled substances and dangerous drugs without an
25 appropriate prior examination of his patients in violation of Business and Professions code section
26 2242.

27 d. Respondent failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records for his
28 patients in violation of Business and Professions Code section 2266.

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ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G-69788, heretofore issued to Respondent James Kirk Clopton, M.D., is revoked.

Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdivision (c), Respondent may serve a written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Respondent. The agency in its discretion may vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute.

This Decision shall become effective on September 18, 2014.

It is so ORDERED August 19, 2014



FOR THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO MARCH 28 2014
BY: R. MONTALBANO ANALYST

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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

JAMES KIRK CLOPTON, M.D.
989 Governor Drive, Suite 101
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate G-69788,

Respondent.

Case No. 02-2011-216149

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.
2. On or about September 17, 1990, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate number G-69788 to James Kirk Clopton, M.D. (Respondent). That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2014, unless renewed.

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JURISDICTION

1
2 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following
3 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

4 4. Section 2227 of the Code states:

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 "(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical
19 review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education
20 activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and
21 successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by
22 existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to
23 Section 803.1."

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

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

28 ///

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

3 (b) Gross negligence.

4 (c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or
5 omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from
6 the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.

7 (1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate
8 for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.

9 (2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that
10 constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a
11 reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the
12 applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the
13 standard of care. "

14 6. Section 2228 of the Code states:

15 AThe authority of the board or a division of the board or the California Board of Podiatric
16 Medicine to discipline a licensee by placing him or her on probation includes, but is not limited
17 to, the following:

18 A(a) Requiring the licensee to obtain additional professional training and to pass an
19 examination upon the completion of the training. The examination may be written or oral, or
20 both, and may be a practical or clinical examination, or both, at the option of the board or division
21 or the administrative law judge.

22 A(b) Requiring the licensee to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more
23 physicians and surgeons appointed by the division. If an examination is ordered, the board or
24 division shall receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic examination given
25 by one or more physicians and surgeons of the licensee's choice.

26 A(c) Restricting or limiting the extent, scope, or type of practice of the licensee, including
27 requiring notice to applicable patients that the licensee is unable to perform the indicated
28 treatment, where appropriate.

1 A(d) Providing the option of alternative community service in cases other than violations
2 relating to quality of care, as defined by the Division of Medical Quality.^{@1}

3 7. Section 2242 of the Code states:

4 "(a) Prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing dangerous drugs as defined in Section 4022
5 without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication, constitutes unprofessional
6 conduct.

7 "(b) No licensee shall be found to have committed unprofessional conduct within the
8 meaning of this section if, at the time the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished, any of
9 the following applies:

10 "(1) The licensee was a designated physician and surgeon or podiatrist serving in the
11 absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and if the drugs
12 were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished only as necessary to maintain the patient until the return
13 of his or her practitioner, but in any case no longer than 72 hours.

14 "(2) The licensee transmitted the order for the drugs to a registered nurse or to a licensed
15 vocational nurse in an inpatient facility, and if both of the following conditions exist:

16 "(A) The practitioner had consulted with the registered nurse or licensed vocational nurse
17 who had reviewed the patient's records.

18 "(B) The practitioner was designated as the practitioner to serve in the absence of the
19 patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be.

20 "(3) The licensee was a designated practitioner serving in the absence of the patient's
21 physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and was in possession of or had utilized
22 the patient's records and ordered the renewal of a medically indicated prescription for an amount
23 not exceeding the original prescription in strength or amount or for more than one refill.

24
25 _____
26 ¹ California Business and Professions Code section 2002, as amended and effective
27 January 1, 2008, provides that, unless otherwise expressly provided, the term "board" as used in
28 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 "(4) The licensee was acting in accordance with Section 120582 of the Health and Safety
2 Code."

3 8. Section 2266 of the Code states: AThe failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain
4 adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes
5 unprofessional conduct.@

6 DRUGS

7 9. Norco, a trade name for the narcotic Hydrocodone Bitartrate (also known as
8 Dihydrocodeinone) combined with the non-narcotic substance Acetaminophen, is a Schedule III
9 controlled substance within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 11056(e)(3), and a
10 dangerous drug as defined in section 4022 of the Code.

11 10. Percocet, a trade name for the combination of the opiate oxycodone combined with
12 Acetaminophen, is a Schedule II controlled substance within the meaning of Health and Safety
13 Code section 11055(b)(1)(N), and is a dangerous drug as defined in section 4022 of the Code.

14 11. Clonazepam, a generic name for the drug Klonopin, is classified as a benzodiazepine
15 used primarily in the management of seizures. Clonazepam is a Federal Schedule IV Controlled
16 Substance. Clonazepam is a Dangerous Drug as defined by California Business and Professions
17 Code section 4022.

18 12. Hydrocodone with acetaminophen, the generic name for the drugs Vicodin, Norco
19 and others, is classified as an analgesic opiate agonist combination product used to treat moderate
20 to moderately severe pain. Hydrocodone with acetaminophen is a Federal Schedule III
21 Controlled Substance. Hydrocodone with acetaminophen is a Dangerous Drug as defined by
22 California Business and Professions Code section 4022.

23 13. Methadone is the generic name for the drugs Methadose and others. It is classified as
24 a synthetic opiate agonist and substance abuse agent indicated for the treatment of severe pain,
25 opiate dependence and opiate withdrawal. Methadone is a Federal Schedule II Controlled
26 Substance. Methadone is a Dangerous Drug as defined by California Business and Professions
27 Code section 4022. Practitioners who use methadone for the treatment of opiate dependence must
28 register and comply with Title 21 United States Code section 823(g).

1 14. Alprazolam is the generic name for the drug Xanax. Alprazolam is classified as a
2 benzodiazepine indicated for the treatment of anxiety disorders. Alprazolam is a Federal
3 Schedule IV Controlled Substance. Alprazolam is a Dangerous Drug as defined by California
4 Business and Professions Code section 4022.

5 15. Buprenorphine with naloxone is the generic name for the drug Suboxone.
6 Buprenorphine with naloxone is classified as a substance abuse agent combination product
7 indicated for the treatment of opioid dependence. Buprenorphine with naloxone is a Federal
8 Schedule III Controlled Substance. Buprenorphine with naloxone is a Dangerous Drug as defined
9 by California Business and Professions Code section 4022. Practitioners using buprenorphine
10 with naloxone to treat opiate dependence must comply with Title 21, United States Code section
11 823(g).

12 16. Methylphenidate (Methylin, Ritalin) is a central nervous system stimulant that is
13 chemically similar to the amphetamines. The peripheral pharmacologic actions of
14 methylphenidate are milder than those of the amphetamines; it has more noticeable effects on
15 mental function than on motor activities. Methylphenidate is clinically used for narcolepsy and as
16 adjunctive treatment in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). It is
17 occasionally used off-label for post-stroke depression or other depressive disorders refractory to
18 other treatments. Methylphenidate and other stimulants are highly effective for the treatment of
19 ADHD, with few comparative differences in efficacy. Methylphenidate has been shown to have a
20 strong effect on measures of attention, distractibility, and impulsivity (effects sizes: 0.75–0.84;
21 mean 0.78) and social and classroom behavior (effect sizes: 0.63-0.86; mean 0.81).

22 17. Propoxyphene (Darvon) is a schedule C-IV controlled substance. Propoxyphene is a
23 synthetic opiate agonist. Structurally, propoxyphene is more similar to methadone than to
24 morphine. Compared with codeine, propoxyphene is one-half to two-thirds as potent an
25 analgesic. An equivalent analgesic dose of propoxyphene to morphine 10 mg IV would be too
26 toxic to administer. High doses of propoxyphene are limited by serious side effects and toxic
27 psychosis. Propoxyphene is as effective or is less effective than 3-60 mg of codeine or 600 mg of
28 aspirin. In addition, overdoses of propoxyphene can be more difficult to reverse than overdoses

1 of traditional opiates. Propoxyphene exerts little or no antitussive activity and may cause an
2 increased incidence of seizures compared to other opiate agonists.

3 18. Oxycodone with acetaminophen is the generic name for the drugs Endocet, Percocet
4 and others. Oxycodone with acetaminophen is classified as an analgesic opiate agonist
5 combination product used to treat moderate to moderately severe pain. Oxycodone with
6 acetaminophen is a Federal Schedule II Controlled Substance. Oxycodone with acetaminophen is
7 a Dangerous Drug as defined by California Business and Professions Code section 4022.

8 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

9 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(b)]
10 (Gross Negligence - Patient J.M.)

11 Patient J. M.

12 19. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(b) of the Code in that
13 he committed acts of gross negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and treatment
14 of patient J.M. The circumstances are as follows:

15 20. On approximately May 10, 2011 the Medical Board of California received a
16 complaint from patient J. M. regarding Respondent. J.M., was a 40-year-old woman when she
17 first saw Respondent for treatment on May 24, 2007. She presented with a diagnosis of anxiety
18 and depression. Respondent prescribed Cymbalta and Lunesta to her. The date of her last visit
19 with Respondent reflected in the patient charts was November 2009 in which Respondent
20 prescribed Zoloft and Librium. The patient alleged that Respondent prescribed large amounts of
21 Librium to her even though she was alcoholic and this caused her physical problems.

22 21. J.M. also alleged that Respondent supplied drugs to her friend (C.R.) who sought out
23 Respondent to give her illicit drugs. C.R. claimed that Respondent would give prescriptions
24 easily for illegitimate reasons.

25 22. Based on this complaint, the Medical Board ran a CURES identifying several other
26 patients of Respondent's who were receiving large amounts of prescription medications including
27 clonazepam, lorazepam, diazepam, and hydrocodone, among others. Medical Board investigators
28 requested from Respondent records for several of those patients including A.L., T.O., and K.W.

1 Respondent had no records for A.L. and T.O. Respondent claimed that he did not have several of
2 these patient records which were lost during a move of his office and that some may have been
3 lost during a break-in of his office during which medical records may have been stolen as well as
4 prescription pads.

5 23. The Medical Board during the course of its investigation also found that the Federal
6 Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was also conducting an investigation into Respondent's
7 prescribing practices. Medical Board investigators contacted DEA and found that a search
8 warrant had been executed on Respondent's office in January 2011 during which multiple patient
9 records were seized as evidence. On the date of this search by DEA, Respondent surrendered his
10 DEA registration.

11 24. In a statement to DEA investigators on the day of the search, Respondent stated the
12 following: Respondent is a psychiatrist who treats patients for psychiatric issues and provides
13 drug treatment. He stated he would treat an existing patient for other physical ailments and would
14 provide narcotics to his patients for pain relief or chronic injury. Respondent did not conduct
15 physical examinations of the patients in his office. Respondent had no medical equipment in his
16 office except for a blood pressure cuff and would rely on patients to supply medical records from
17 previous treating physicians. Respondent would not call the past medical providers to confirm
18 their diagnosis. Respondent would charge these patients \$250 for an initial visit and \$100 for
19 follow-up visits. Respondent would not accept insurance.

20 25. Respondent prescribed controlled substances for his patients' complaints of pain that
21 he never examined physically to confirm a diagnosis. Respondent did not write any confirmation
22 in the chart notes of the patients' diagnosis. There is no evidence Respondent monitored the
23 dispensing of these prescription medications nor did he do routine urine screening to determine if
24 the patient was using the substances he was prescribing or to ensure the patient was not using
25 illicit substances.

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1 26. Respondent demonstrated an erratic prescribing pattern for his patients. He would
2 prescribe opiates and benzodiazepines in regular amounts to his patients one day followed by a
3 similar amount often 2 to 3 days later. The CURES reports also demonstrate that Respondent was
4 under representing in the chart notes the amount of medications he was actually prescribing for
5 the patients.

6 27. Respondent was attempting to use controlled substances for pain management in
7 these patients in addition to managing coexistent psychiatric illnesses. Respondent failed to
8 perform physical examinations, substance abuse histories, or diagnostic tests on any of his
9 patients.

10 28. He failed to coordinate with any of the primary care physicians. Respondent failed to
11 develop concise treatment plans with clear objectives for his patients or to develop rehabilitation
12 programs for pain management or opiate dependence as was necessary. He failed to perform any
13 periodic chart review of the patients to ensure that they were not being over prescribed
14 medications. Respondent also failed to seek out any consultation for pain management.

15 29. Respondent's medical records for his patients were below the standard of care. The
16 patient charts demonstrate large gaps in dates between appointments for each patient. It is
17 unclear from the charting whether Respondent performed patient examinations or simply
18 continued to prescribe medications to the patients without visits. His chart notes do not contain
19 any explanation or rationale for his treatment decisions. He changed medications and quantities
20 of medications including antidepressants and benzodiazepines without clear indications as to the
21 reason for these increases and/or shifts in medication. Respondent appears to present no
22 treatment plan for these patients in his chart notes. Respondent failed to show any progressive
23 increase in dosages with his patients especially in the circumstances of anxiety, instead giving
24 large dosages from the beginning of treatment. Respondent's chart notes also do not reflect the
25 CURES reports which indicate how much medication Respondent was prescribing to his patients.
26 Patient charts also fail to include any responses the patients were having to medication, such as
27 any adverse consequences or side effects.

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1 30. Respondent's care and treatment of J.M. was grossly negligent in the following
2 respects:

3 1. There is no initial treatment plan in the records.

4 2. Respondent did no physical examination of the patient during the first 6 months
5 of treatment. He failed to order X rays, MRIs or CT scans, and failed to refer the patient to
6 another doctor or for physical therapy.

7 3. The patient's chart is missing medical records.

8 4. Respondent treated the patient's pain based only on the patient's reported
9 history. He did not consult with other physicians who had treated the patient. Respondent
10 made no radiologic investigation. Respondent failed to determine a more precise etiology
11 of the patient's pain.

12 5. Respondent treated the patient's pain solely with prescription medications. He
13 did not consider treatments such as physical therapy or stress reduction.

14 6. Respondent failed to conduct an assessment of the patient's addiction risk
15 through he was prescribing narcotic therapy for chronic pain.

16 7. Respondent did not conduct any drug screening.

17 8. Respondent failed to obtain a thorough history of the patient's substance abuse
18 problem, failed to consult and consider collateral sources, and failed to contact the patient's
19 prior treating physician.

20 31. Respondent's conduct as described above is gross negligence in the practice of
21 medicine and constitutes unprofessional conduct in violation of section 2234(b) of the Code, and
22 thereby provides cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

23 SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

24 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(c)]
(Repeated Negligent Acts - Patient J.M.)

25 32. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(c) of the Code in that
26 he committed acts of repeated negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and
27 treatment of patient J.M. The circumstances are as follows:

28 33. Paragraphs 19 through 30 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

1 34. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes repeated negligent acts in the
2 care and treatment of J.M. in violation of section 2234(c) of the Code, and thereby provides cause
3 for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

4 THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

[Bus. & Prof. Code § 2242]

(Prescribing Without Appropriate Prior Exam - Patient J.M.)

6 35. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2242 of the Code in that he
7 failed to conduct an appropriate prior examination of patient J.M. prior to prescribing controlled
8 substances and dangerous drugs.

9 36. Paragraphs 19 through 30 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

10 37. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
11 care and treatment of J.M. in violation of section 2242 of the Code, and provides cause for
12 discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

13 FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

[Bus. & Prof. Code § 2266]

(Inaccurate Medical Records - Patient J.M.)

15 38. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code in that he
16 failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records for patient J.M. Specifically,
17 Respondent failed to adequately record histories, physicals, accurate assessments of the patient's
18 condition, medications prescribed, and treatment notes.

19 39. Paragraphs 19 through 30 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

20 40. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
21 care and treatment of J.M. in violation of section 2266 of the Code, and provides cause for
22 discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

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1 FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(b)]
3 (Gross Negligence - Patient C.S.)

4 Patient C.S.

5 41. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(b) of the Code in that
6 he committed acts of gross negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and treatment
7 of patient C.S. The circumstances are as follows:

8 42. On June 20, 2011 the Medical Board received a complaint filed by A.S., husband of
9 deceased patient, C.S.

10 43. C.S. was a 39-year-old woman who began treatment with Respondent in 1996 for
11 depression and attention deficit disorder. From 1998 to 2010, C.S. would travel from her home in
12 Grass Valley to Respondent's Golden Hills Psychiatry clinic in El Dorado Hills. Respondent
13 initially prescribed Ritalin and Paxil. Respondent treated C.S. in 2007 with Norco for pain
14 management of a herniated disc. C.S. paid cash for her appointments. Respondent conducted
15 only minimal examination of C.S.

16 44. In approximately 2007, C.S. became erratic, hearing voices, talking to herself, and
17 believing people were trying to kill her. C.S.'s family emailed Respondent regarding her
18 behavior and the effects of the medications he was prescribing. The family reached out to
19 Respondent on several occasions to explain to him the changes in her behavior. However
20 Respondent's chart notes for C.S. do not include any notation of the family's concerns, any
21 awareness on the behalf of Respondent about the family's contact with him, and no indication
22 from Respondent that he would address these reports he received from the family. Respondent
23 was dismissive of the family's concerns.

24 45. In approximately 2008, C.S. was admitted to the hospital after having a seizure. The
25 seizure was induced by medication prescribed by Respondent (alprazolam and methylene) and
26 alcohol consumption. Respondent failed to recognize that the seizure was related to substance
27 withdrawal due to medications that Respondent was prescribing. Rather than check with the
28 physician who had prescribed previously to C.S. for her seizure disorder, Respondent continued

1 to prescribe Xanax and Darvon until the patient ultimately died from an overdose in August 2010
2 from acute alprazolam and propoxyphene toxicity.

3 46. Respondent's care and treatment of C.S. was grossly negligent in the following
4 respects:

5 1. There is no initial treatment plan in the records.

6 2. Respondent did no physical examination of the patient during the first 6 months
7 of treatment. He failed to order X rays, MRIs or CT scans, and failed to refer the patient to
8 another doctor or for physical therapy.

9 3. The patient's chart is missing medical records.

10 4. Respondent treated the patient's pain based only on the patient's reported
11 history. He did not consult with other physicians who had treated the patient. Respondent
12 made no radiologic investigation. Respondent failed to determine a more precise etiology
13 of the patient's pain.

14 5. Respondent treated the patient's pain solely with prescription medications. He
15 did not consider treatments such as physical therapy or stress reduction.

16 6. Respondent failed to conduct an assessment of the patient's addiction risk
17 although he was prescribing narcotic therapy for chronic pain.

18 7. Respondent did not conduct any drug screening.

19 8. Respondent failed to obtain a thorough history of the patient's substance abuse
20 problem, failed to consult and consider collateral sources, and failed to contact the patient's
21 prior treating physician.

22 47. Respondent's conduct as described above is gross negligence in the practice of
23 medicine and constitutes unprofessional conduct in violation of section 2234(b) of the Code, and
24 thereby provides cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

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SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

[Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(c)]
(Repeated Negligent Acts - Patient C.S.)

48. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(c) of the Code in that he committed acts of repeated negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and treatment of patient C.S. The circumstances are as follows:

49. Paragraphs 41 through 46 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

50. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of C.S. in violation of section 2234(c) of the Code, and thereby provides cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

[Bus. & Prof. Code § 2242]
(Prescribing Without Appropriate Prior Exam - Patient C.S.)

51. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2242 of the Code in that he failed to conduct an appropriate prior examination of patient C.S. prior to prescribing controlled substances and dangerous drugs.

52. Paragraphs 41 through 46 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

53. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of C.S. in violation of section 2242 of the Code, and provides cause for discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

[Bus. & Prof. Code § 2266]
(Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Medical Records – Patient C.S.)

54. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code in that he failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records for patient C.S. Specifically, Respondent failed to adequately record histories, physicals, accurate assessments of the patient's condition, medications prescribed, and treatment notes.

55. Paragraphs 41 through 46 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

56. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of C.S. in violation of section 2266 of the Code, and provides cause for discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

1 NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(b)]
3 (Gross Negligence - Patient K.W.)

4 Patient K.W.

5 57. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(b) of the Code in that
6 he committed acts of gross negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and treatment
7 of patient K.W. The circumstances are as follows:

8 58. K.W. was an 18-year-old woman when she first sought treatment from Respondent
9 for her depression on February 26, 2009. Her treatment continued through August 24, 2010.

10 59. Respondent prescribed Subutex for pain management of the patient's fibromyalgia
11 even though Respondent knew the patient had a substance abuse problem.

12 60. Respondent prescribed controlled substances for his patient's complaints of pain that
13 he never examined physically to confirm a diagnosis. Respondent did not write any confirmation
14 in the chart notes of the patient's diagnosis. There is no evidence Respondent monitored the
15 dispensing of these opiates nor did he do routine urine screening to determine if the patient was
16 using the substances he was prescribing or to ensure the patient was not using illicit substances.

17 61. Respondent demonstrated an erratic prescribing pattern for his patient. He would
18 prescribe opiates and benzodiazepines in regular amounts to his patient one day followed by a
19 similar amount often 2 to 3 days later. The CURES reports also demonstrate that Respondent was
20 under representing in the chart notes the amount of medications he was actually prescribing for
21 the patient.

22 62. Respondent was attempting to use controlled substances for pain management in this
23 patient in addition to managing coexistent psychiatric illnesses. Respondent failed to perform
24 physical examinations, substance abuse histories, or diagnostic tests on any of his patients.

25 63. He failed to coordinate with any primary care physician. Respondent failed to
26 develop concise treatment plans with clear objectives for his patient or to develop rehabilitation
27 programs for pain management or opiate dependence as was necessary. He failed to perform any
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1 periodic chart review of the patient to ensure that she was not being over prescribed medications.
2 Respondent also failed to seek out any consultation for pain management.

3 64. Respondent's medical records for his patient was below the standard of care. The
4 patient charts demonstrate large gaps in dates between appointments for each the patient. It is
5 unclear from the charting whether Respondent performed patient examinations or simply
6 continued to prescribe medications to the patient without visits. His chart notes do not contain
7 any explanation or rationale for his treatment decisions. He changed medications and quantities
8 of medications including antidepressants and benzodiazepines without clear indications as to the
9 reason for these increases and/or shifts in medication. Respondent appears to present no
10 treatment plan for this patient in his chart notes. Respondent failed to show any progressive
11 increase in dosages with the patient especially in the circumstances of anxiety, instead giving
12 large dosages from the beginning of treatment. Respondent's chart notes also do not reflect the
13 CURES reports which indicate how much medication Respondent was prescribing to the patient.
14 Patient charts also fail to include any responses the patient was having to medication, such as any
15 adverse consequences or side effects.

16 65. Respondent's care and treatment of K.W. was grossly negligent in the following
17 respects:

- 18 1. There is no initial treatment plan in the records.
- 19 2. Respondent did no physical examination of the patient during the first 6 months
20 of treatment. He failed to order X rays, MRIs or CT scans, and failed to refer the patient to
21 another doctor or for physical therapy.
- 22 3. The patient's chart is missing medical records.
- 23 4. Respondent diagnosed the patient's painful condition based only on the
24 patient's reported history. He did not consult with other physicians who had treated the
25 patient. Respondent made no radiologic investigation. Respondent failed to determine a
26 more precise etiology of the patient's pain.
- 27 5. Respondent treated the patient's pain solely with prescription medications. He
28 did not consider treatments such as physical therapy or stress reduction.

1 6. Respondent failed to conduct an assessment of the patient's addiction risk
2 although he was prescribing narcotic therapy for her chronic pain.

3 7. Respondent did not conduct any drug screening.

4 8. Respondent failed to obtain a thorough history of any possible substance abuse,
5 failed to consult and consider collateral sources, and failed to contact the patient's prior
6 treating physician.

7 66. Respondent's conduct as described above is gross negligence in the practice of
8 medicine and constitutes unprofessional conduct in violation of section 2234(b) of the Code, and
9 thereby provides cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

10 TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

11 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(c)]

12 (Repeated Negligent Acts - Patient K.W.)

13 67. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(c) of the Code in that
14 he committed acts of repeated negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and
15 treatment of patient K.W. The circumstances are as follows:

16 68. Paragraphs 57 through 65 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

17 69. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes repeated negligent acts in the
18 care and treatment of K.W. in violation of section 2234(c) of the Code, and thereby provides
19 cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

20 ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

21 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2242]

22 (Prescribing Without Appropriate Prior Exam - Patient K.W.)

23 70. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2242 of the Code in that he
24 failed to conduct an appropriate prior examination of patient K.W. prior to prescribing controlled
25 substances and dangerous drugs.

26 71. Paragraphs 57 through 65 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

27 72. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
28 care and treatment of K.W. in violation of section 2242 of the Code, and provides cause for
discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

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1 TWELFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2266]

3 (Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Medical Records – Patient K.W.)

4 73. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code in that he
5 failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records for patient K.W. Specifically,
6 Respondent failed to adequately record histories, physicals, accurate assessments of the patient's
7 condition, medications prescribed, and treatment notes.

8 74. Paragraphs 57 through 65 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

9 75. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
10 care and treatment of K.W. in violation of section 2266 of the Code, and provides cause for
11 discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

12 THIRTEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

13 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(b)]

14 (Gross Negligence - Patient D.A.)

15 Patient D.A.

16 76. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(b) of the Code in that
17 he committed acts of gross negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and treatment
18 of patient D.A. The circumstances are as follows:

19 77. D.A. began treatment with Respondent in January 24, 2006. Her diagnosis was
20 crippling anxiety. Respondent's last patient chart was September 4, 2012.

21 78. D.A. reported that she had been referred to Respondent through family members.
22 After an initial in person appointment with Respondent, her subsequent appointments were over
23 the telephone and lasted usually no longer than three minutes. Most of the telephone
24 appointments lasted one minute. During these telephone appointments Respondent asked the
25 patient how she was doing, would ask for her credit card information, and would prescribe
26 medications such as Valium.

27 79. In 2012, Respondent recommended that D.A. take Percocet, but the reasons or
28 purpose for that recommendation is not clear in Respondent's notes.

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1 80. Respondent was attempting to use controlled substances for pain management in this
2 patient in addition to managing coexistent psychiatric illnesses. Respondent failed to perform
3 physical examinations, substance abuse histories, or diagnostic tests on any of the patient.

4 81. He failed to coordinate with any of the primary care physicians. Respondent failed to
5 develop concise treatment plans with clear objectives for his patients or to develop rehabilitation
6 programs for her anxiety or pain management. He failed to perform any periodic chart review of
7 the patient to ensure that she was not being over prescribed medications. Respondent also failed
8 to seek out any consultation for pain management.

9 82. Respondent's medical records for his patient was below the standard of care. The
10 patient charts demonstrate large gaps in dates between appointments for the patient. It is clear
11 from the charting that Respondent failed to performed patient examinations, but simply continued
12 to prescribe medications to the patient without visits. His chart notes do not contain any
13 explanation or rationale for his treatment decisions. He changed medications and quantities of
14 medications including antidepressants and benzodiazepines without clear indications as to the
15 reason for these increases and/or shifts in medication. Respondent appears to present no
16 treatment plan for the patient in his chart notes. Respondent failed to show any progressive
17 increase in dosages with his patient especially in the circumstances of anxiety, instead giving
18 large dosages from the beginning of treatment. Respondent's chart notes also do not reflect the
19 CURES reports which indicate how much medication Respondent was prescribing to the patient.
20 Patient charts also fail to include any responses the patient was having to medication, such as any
21 adverse consequences or side effects.

22 83. Respondent's care and treatment of D.A. was grossly negligent in the following
23 respects:

- 24 1. There is no initial treatment plan in the records.
- 25 2. Respondent only saw the patient on her first visit. All subsequent contact was
26 by telephone with no physical examination. Respondent failed to order X rays, MRIs or CT
27 scans, and failed to refer her to another doctor or for physical therapy.
- 28 3. The patient's chart is missing medical records.

1 4. Respondent diagnosed the patient's condition based only on the patient's
2 reported history. He did not consult with other physicians who had treated the patient.
3 Respondent made no radiologic investigation. Respondent failed to determine a more
4 precise etiology of the patient's pain or causes of depression and anxiety.

5 5. Respondent treated the patient's diagnoses solely with prescription medications.
6 He did not consider treatments such as physical therapy or stress reduction.

7 6. Respondent failed to conduct an assessment of the patient's addiction risk.

8 7. Respondent did not conduct any drug screening.

9 8. Respondent failed to obtain a thorough history of the patient's controlled
10 substance use, failed to consult and consider collateral sources, and failed to contact the
11 patient's prior treating physician.

12 84. Respondent's conduct as described above is gross negligence in the practice of
13 medicine and constitutes unprofessional conduct in violation of section 2234(b) of the Code, and
14 thereby provides cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

15 FOURTEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

16 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(c)]
(Repeated Negligent Acts - Patient D.A.)

17 85. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(c) of the Code in that
18 he committed acts of repeated negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and
19 treatment of patient D.A. The circumstances are as follows:

20 86. Paragraphs 76 through 83 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

21 87. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes repeated negligent acts in the
22 care and treatment of D.A. in violation of section 2234(c) of the Code, and thereby provides cause
23 for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

24 FIFTEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

25 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2242]
(Prescribing Without Appropriate Prior Exam - Patient D.A.)

26 88. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2242 of the Code in that he
27 failed to conduct an appropriate prior examination of patient D.A. prior to prescribing controlled
28 substances and dangerous drugs.

1 89. Paragraphs 76 through 83 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

2 90. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
3 care and treatment of D.A. in violation of section 2242 of the Code, and provides cause for
4 discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

5 SIXTEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

6 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2266]

7 (Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Medical Records- Patient D.A.)

8 91. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code in that he
9 failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records for patient D.A. Specifically,
10 Respondent failed to adequately record histories, physicals, accurate assessments of the patient's
11 condition, medications prescribed, and treatment notes.

12 92. Paragraphs 76 through 83 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

13 93. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
14 care and treatment of D.A. in violation of section 2266 of the Code, and provides cause for
15 discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

16 SEVENTEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

17 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(b)]

18 (Gross Negligence - Patient T.O.)

19 Patient T.O.

20 94. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(b) of the Code in that
21 he committed acts of gross negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and treatment
22 of patient T.O. The circumstances are as follows:

23 95. T.O. was a 46-year-old man when he first saw Respondent on August 29, 2007 for
24 treatment of depression and chronic pain. Respondent prescribed OxyContin. Treatment
25 continued through 2010 according to Respondent's treatment records.

26 96. Respondent prescribed OxyContin, Neurontin, and Nuvigil.

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1 97. Respondent failed to do a proper evaluation of the patient including an assessment of
2 his pain, assessment of the patient's physical and psychological function, substance abuse history,
3 patient history of prior pain treatment, and assessment of any underlying or coexisting diseases or
4 conditions.

5 98. Respondent failed to establish or document a treatment plan and objectives for the
6 patient. Treatment was purely based on subjective symptoms of the patient.

7 99. Respondent continued to prescribe and make adjustments to high dose opiate therapy
8 without objective measurements of its effectiveness, and without evaluation of the side effects.
9 Respondent failed to maintain proper follow-up of the patient's condition through the course of
10 treatment.

11 100. There is no documentation in the record that the patient was informed of the risks and
12 dangers of opiate therapy or that these risks and dangers were discussed with the patient.

13 101. There is no documentation of appropriate testing results such as lab tests, specialty
14 testing, MRIs or CT scans. Respondent also failed to consult with other physicians regarding the
15 care of the patient including lack of contact with the patient's primary care physician and no
16 indication that consultant services were utilized in the treatment plan.

17 102. Respondent's conduct as described above is gross negligence in the practice of
18 medicine and constitutes unprofessional conduct in violation of section 2234(b) of the Code, and
19 thereby provides cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

20 EIGHTEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

21 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(c)]

22 (Repeated Negligent Acts – Patient T.O.)

23 103. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(c) of the Code in
24 that he committed acts of repeated negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and
25 treatment of patient T.O. The circumstances are as follows:

26 104. Paragraphs 94 through 101 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

27 105. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes repeated negligent acts in the
28 care and treatment of T.O. in violation of section 2234(c) of the Code, and thereby provides cause
for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

1 NINETEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2242]

3 (Prescribing Without Appropriate Prior Exam – Patient T.O.)

4 106. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2242 of the Code in that he
5 failed to conduct an appropriate prior examination of patient T.O. prior to prescribing controlled
6 substances and dangerous drugs.

7 107. Paragraphs 94 through 101 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

8 108. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
9 care and treatment of T.O. in violation of section 2242 of the Code, and provides cause for
10 discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

11 TWENTIETH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

12 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2266]

13 (Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Medical Records – Patient T.O.)

14 109. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code in that he
15 failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records for patient T.O. Specifically,
16 Respondent failed to adequately record histories, physicals, accurate assessments of the patient's
17 condition, medications prescribed, and treatment notes.

18 110. Paragraphs 94 through 101 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

19 111. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
20 care and treatment of T.O. in violation of section 2266 of the Code, and provides cause for
21 discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

22 TWENTY-FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

23 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(b)]

24 (Gross Negligence – Patient A.L.)

25 Patient A.L.

26 112. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(b) of the Code in that
27 he committed acts of gross negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and treatment
28 of patient A.L. The circumstances are as follows:

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1 113. A.L. was a 20-year-old woman when she first began treatment with Respondent on
2 August 21, 2007 with a diagnosis of anxiety and depression. Respondent's last treatment note for
3 A.L. was on February 5, 2010 when he referred her to the Auburn pain clinic.

4 114. Respondent prescribed methadone, Vicodin, Ultram, Cymbalta, Effexor, Xanax,
5 Pristiq, cannabis, Clonidine, Percocet, and Subutex.

6 115. Respondent treated A.L. for opiate dependency, anxiety and depression, and pain and
7 anxiety all concurrently. He first prescribed methadone in pill form then later switched A.L. to
8 Subutex in 2008.

9 116. Respondent failed to do a proper evaluation of the patient including an assessment of
10 her pain, assessment of the patient's physical and psychological function, substance abuse history,
11 patient history of prior pain treatment, and assessment of any underlying or coexisting diseases or
12 conditions.

13 117. Respondent failed to establish or document a treatment plan and objectives for the
14 patient. Treatment was purely based on subjective symptoms of the patient.

15 118. Respondent continued to prescribe and make adjustments to high dose opiate therapy
16 without objective measurements of its effectiveness, and without evaluation of the side effects.
17 Respondent failed to maintain proper follow-up of the patient's condition through the course of
18 treatment.

19 119. There is no documentation in the record that the patient was informed of the risks and
20 dangers of opiate therapy or that these risks and dangers were discussed with the patient.

21 120. There is no documentation of appropriate testing results such as lab tests, specialty
22 testing, MRIs or CT scans. Respondent also failed to consult with other physicians regarding the
23 care of the patient including lack of contact with the patient's primary care physician and no
24 indication that consultant services were utilized in the treatment plan.

25 121. Respondent's conduct as described above is gross negligence in the practice of
26 medicine and constitutes unprofessional conduct in violation of section 2234(b) of the Code, and
27 thereby provides cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

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1 TWENTY-SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(c)]

3 (Repeated Negligent Acts – Patient A.L.)

4 122. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(c) of the Code in that
5 he committed acts of repeated negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and
6 treatment of patient A.L. The circumstances are as follows:

7 123. Paragraphs 112 through 120 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

8 124. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes repeated negligent acts in the
9 care and treatment of A.L. in violation of section 2234(c) of the Code, and thereby provides cause
10 for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

11 TWENTY-THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

12 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2242]

13 (Prescribing Without Appropriate Prior Exam – Patient A.L.)

14 125. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2242 of the Code in that he
15 failed to conduct an appropriate prior examination of patient A.L. prior to prescribing controlled
16 substances and dangerous drugs.

17 126. Paragraphs 112 through 120 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

18 127. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
19 care and treatment of A.L. in violation of section 2242 of the Code, and provides cause for
20 discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

21 TWENTY-FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

22 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2266]

23 (Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Medical Records – Patient A.L.)

24 128. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 of the Code in that he
25 failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records for patient A.L. Specifically,
26 Respondent failed to adequately record histories, physicals, accurate assessments of the patient's
27 condition, medications prescribed, and treatment notes.

28 129. Paragraphs 112 through 120 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

130. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes unprofessional conduct in the
care and treatment of A.L. in violation of section 2266 of the Code, and provides cause for
discipline against his physician's and surgeon's certificate.

1 TWENTY-FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 [Bus. & Prof. Code § 2234(c)]

3 (Repeated Negligent Acts – Patients J.M., C.S., K.W., D.A., T.O. and A.L.)

4 131. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2234(c) of the Code in that
5 he committed acts of repeated negligence and unprofessional conduct during the care and
6 treatment of patients J.M., C.S., K.W., D.A., T.O., and A.L. The circumstances are as follows:

7 132. Paragraphs 19 through 120 are repeated here as more fully set forth above.

8 133. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes repeated negligent acts in the
9 care and treatment of these patients in violation of section 2234(c) of the Code, and thereby
10 provides cause for discipline to Respondent's physician's and surgeon's certificate.

11 **PRAYER**

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

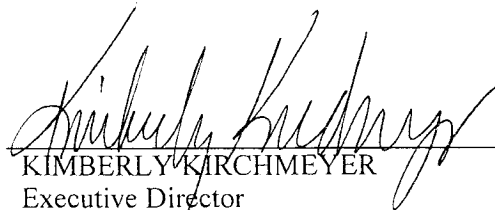
14 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G69788,
15 issued to James Kirk Clopton, M.D.

16 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of his authority to supervise physician's
17 assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;

18 3. If placed on probation, ordering him to pay the Medical Board of California the costs
19 of probation monitoring;

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

21
22 DATED: March 28, 2014



23 KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER
24 Executive Director
25 Medical Board of California
26 Department of Consumer Affairs
27 State of California

28 *Complainant*

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