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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO *September 13 2018*
BY *[Signature]* ANALYST

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

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2015-016740

14 Soleyman Mirakhor, M.D.
5857 Winnetka Avenue
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

A C C U S A T I O N

15 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. C 52017,

16 Respondent.

17
18 Complainant alleges:

19 **PARTIES**

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

23 2. On or about July 27, 2005, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
24 Number C 52017 to Soleyman Mirakhor, M.D. ("Respondent"). That Certificate was in full force
25 and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on January 31, 2019,
26 unless renewed.

27 **JURISDICTION**

28 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following

1 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code ("Code") unless otherwise
2 indicated.

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

7 5. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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

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

13 "(b) Gross negligence.

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

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

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

24 "(d) Incompetence.

25 "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially
26 related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

27 "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.

28 "(g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country without meeting

1 the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of medicine. Section 2314 shall not
2 apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall become operative upon the implementation of the
3 proposed registration program described in Section 2052.5.

4 “(h) The repeated failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend and
5 participate in an interview by the board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder
6 who is the subject of an investigation by the board.”

7 6. Section 725 of the Code states:

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

14 “(b) Any person who engages in repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing or
15 administering of drugs or treatment is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of
16 not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than six hundred dollars (\$600), or by
17 imprisonment for a term of not less than 60 days nor more than 180 days, or by both that fine and
18 imprisonment.

19 “(c) A practitioner who has a medical basis for prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or
20 administering dangerous drugs or prescription controlled substances shall not be subject to
21 disciplinary action or prosecution under this section.

22 “(d) No physician and surgeon shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this section
23 for treating intractable pain in compliance with Section 2241.5.”

24 7. Section 2242 of the Code states:

25 “(a) Prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing dangerous drugs as defined in Section 4022
26 without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication, constitutes unprofessional
27 conduct.

28 “(b) No licensee shall be found to have committed unprofessional conduct within the

1 meaning of this section if, at the time the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished, any of
2 the following applies:

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

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

9 “(A) The practitioner had consulted with the registered nurse or licensed vocational nurse
10 who had reviewed the patient’s records.

11 “(B) The practitioner was designated as the practitioner to serve in the absence of the
12 patient’s physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be.

13 “(3) The licensee was a designated practitioner serving in the absence of the patient’s
14 physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and was in possession of or had utilized
15 the patient’s records and ordered the renewal of a medically indicated prescription for an amount
16 not exceeding the original prescription in strength or amount or for more than one refill.

17 “(4) The licensee was acting in accordance with Section 120582 of the Health and Safety
18 Code.”

19 8. Section 2266 of the Code states:

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

22 PERTINENT DRUGS

23 9. **Amitriptyline** is a tricyclic antidepressant. It is used to treat depression, anxiety,
24 migraine headaches, insomnia, and neuropathic pain. It is well documented to cause switch states
25 in Bipolar patients, to go from depression to full mania. It is not approved for use in treating
26 bipolar depression. Brand names include Vanatrip, Elavil, Endep. Amitriptyline is a dangerous
27 drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

28 10. **Baclofen** is a muscle relaxer and an antispastic agent. Baclofen is used to treat

1 muscle symptoms caused by multiple sclerosis, including spasm, pain, and stiffness. Baclofen is
2 sometimes used to treat muscle spasms and other symptoms in people with injury or disease of
3 the spinal cord. It is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

4 11. **Benzodiazepines** are a class of drugs that produce Central Nervous System (“CNS”)
5 depression and are most commonly used to treat insomnia and anxiety. They include Xanax
6 (alprazolam), Ativan (lorazepam), Valium (diazepam), Restoril (temazepam), and Klonopin
7 (clonazepam). They are Schedule IV controlled substances as defined by 21 Code of Federal
8 Regulations part 1308.14(c)(2), (c)(16), (c)(30), (c)(50), and (c)(11), and California Health and
9 Safety Code section 11057, subdivisions (d)(1), (d)(7), (d)(9), (d)(16), and (d)(29). They are
10 dangerous drugs as defined in California Business and Professions Code section 4022.

11 12. **BuSpar** (buspirone hydrochloride) is an anti-anxiety medicine. It is indicated for the
12 management of anxiety disorders or the short-term relief of the symptoms of anxiety. It is a
13 dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

14 13. **Celexa** (citalopram) is an antidepressant in a group of drugs called selective serotonin
15 reuptake inhibitors. It is used to treat depression and anxiety. It is a dangerous drug as defined in
16 Business and Professions Code section 4022.

17 14. **Depakote** (divalproex sodium) is indicated for the treatment of the manic episodes
18 associated with bipolar disorder, seizures, and migraine headaches. It can cause hepatotoxicity.
19 It is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

20 15. **Doxepin** (Sinequan) is a tricyclic antidepressant. It is indicated for the treatment of
21 depression and anxiety. It is sometimes used off label to treat insomnia. It is not approved for
22 use in treating bipolar depression. It is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions
23 Code section 4022.

24 16. **Fentanyl** is an opioid pain medication. Fentanyl is used as part of anesthesia to help
25 prevent pain after surgery or other medical procedure. Fentanyl is also used for managing severe
26 chronic pain. Fentanyl is a Schedule II controlled substance as defined by section 1308.12,
27 subdivision (c)(9), of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations and Health and Safety Code
28 section 11055, subdivision (c)(8). It is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions

1 Code section 4022.

2 17. **Flexeril** (cyclobenzaprine) is a muscle relaxant. It is a dangerous drug as defined in
3 Business and Professions Code section 4022.

4 18. **Gabapentin** is an anti-epileptic drug, also called an anticonvulsant. It is used to treat
5 partial seizures, neuropathic pain, hot flashes, and restless legs syndrome. It causes CNS
6 depression. Brand names include Gralise, Horizant, Neurontin, Gabarone. It is a dangerous drug
7 as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

8 19. **Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen** is an opioid pain medication. Brand names include
9 Norco, Lortab, and Vicodin. It is a Schedule II controlled substance as defined by 21 Code of
10 Federal Regulations part 1308.12(b)(1)(vi) and Health and Safety Code section 11055,
11 subdivision (b)(1)(I). It is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section
12 4022.

13 20. **Hydroxyzine** is used as a sedative to treat anxiety and tension. It is also used
14 together with other medications given during and after general anesthesia. Hydroxyzine is also
15 used to treat allergic skin reactions such as hives or contact dermatitis. Brand names include
16 Vistaril, Atarax, Vistaril IM, Hyzine, Vistaject-50, Rezine, Vistacon, Vistacot, Vistazine, and
17 Vistazine 50. Hydroxyzine is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code
18 section 4022.

19 21. **Lamictal** (lamotrigine) is an anti-epileptic medication, also called an anticonvulsant.
20 It is used either alone or in combination with other medications to treat epileptic seizures.
21 Lamictal is also used for the maintenance treatment of Bipolar I Disorder. It is a dangerous drug
22 as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

23 22. **Latuda** (lurasidone hydrochloride) is an antipsychotic medicine used to treat
24 schizophrenia. It is also used to treat episodes of depression associated with bipolar disorder
25 (bipolar depression). It is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section
26 4022.

27 23. **Lithium** is used to treat the manic episodes of bipolar disorder (manic depression).
28 Manic symptoms include hyperactivity, rushed speech, poor judgment, reduced need for sleep,

1 aggression, and anger. Lithium also helps to prevent or lessen the intensity of manic episodes. It
2 is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

3 24. **Luvox** (fluvoxamine) is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressant. It is
4 used to treat social anxiety disorder (social phobia), obsessive-compulsive disorders involving
5 recurring thoughts or actions, and major depressive disorder. It is a dangerous drug as defined in
6 Business and Professions Code section 4022.

7 25. **Oxycodone** is an opioid pain medication. Brand names include Oxaydo, Oxycontin,
8 Oxyfast, Roxicodone, and Xtampza ER. It is a Schedule II controlled substance as defined by
9 section 1308.12, subdivision (b)(1)(xiii), of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations and
10 Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b)(1)(M). It is a dangerous drug as defined
11 in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

12 26. **Paxil** (paroxetine hydrochloride) is an antidepressant belonging to a group of drugs
13 called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors. It is indicated for the treatment of Major
14 Depressive Disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and other
15 anxiety disorders. Brand names include Brisdelle, Paxil, Paxil CR, and Pexeva. It is a dangerous
16 drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

17 27. **Risperdal** (Risperidone) is an antipsychotic medicine. It is used to treat
18 schizophrenia, symptoms of bipolar disorder (manic depression), and symptoms of irritability in
19 autistic children. It is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section
20 4022.

21 28. **Seroquel** (quetiapine fumarate) is an antipsychotic medicine. It is used to treat
22 schizophrenia, acute mania, as monotherapy for the acute treatment of depressive episodes
23 associated with bipolar disorder, and for the maintenance treatment of Bipolar I disorder, as an
24 adjunct to lithium or divalproex. Brand names include Seroquel and Seroquel XR. It is a
25 dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

26 29. **Tramadol** is a narcotic-like pain reliever. Brand names include Ultram and Conzip.
27 It is a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined by 21 Code of Federal Regulations part
28 1308.14(b)(3). It is a dangerous drug as defined in California Business and Professions Code

1 section 4022.

2 30. **Trazadone** is an antidepressant medicine. It is often used off-label to treat insomnia.
3 Brand names include Oleptro, Desyrel, and Desyrel Dividose. Trazodone is a dangerous drug as
4 defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

5 31. **Trileptal** (oxcarbazepine) is an anticonvulsant or antiepileptic medicine. It is used as
6 an anti-epileptic, analgesic for neuropathic pain, and in the treatment of affective disorders. Other
7 brand names include Oxtellar XR. Trileptal is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and
8 Professions Code section 4022.

9 32. **Effexor** (venlafaxine) is an antidepressant belonging to a group of drugs called
10 selective serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors. It is used to treat major depressive
11 disorder, anxiety, and panic disorder. Brand names include Effexor and Effexor XR. It is a
12 dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

13 33. **Viibryd** (vilazodone) is an antidepressant in a group of drugs called selective
14 serotonin reuptake inhibitors. It is used to treat major depressive disorder and other purposes. It
15 is a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4022.

16 34. **Wellbutrin** (bupropion) is an antidepressant medication used to treat major
17 depressive disorder and seasonal affective disorder. It is also used as a smoking cessation aid.
18 Other brand names include Aplenzin, Buproban, Forfivo XL, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL,
19 Zyban, Zyban Advantage Pack, Budeprion XL. Wellbutrin is a dangerous drug as defined in
20 Business and Professions Code section 4022.

21 35. **Ambien** (zolpidem tartrate) is a sedative, also called a hypnotic. It is indicated for
22 the short-term treatment of insomnia characterized by difficulties with sleep initiation. Other
23 brand names include Edluar, Intermezzo, and Zolpimist. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance
24 as defined by 21 Code of Federal Regulations part 1308.14(c)(54) and California Health and
25 Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d)(32). It is a dangerous drug as defined in California
26 Business and Professions Code section 4022.

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1 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Gross Negligence-Patients 1, 2, 3, & 4)**

3 36. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (b),
4 in that he was grossly negligent in the care and treatment of Patients 1, 2, 3, and 4. The
5 circumstances are as follows:

6 Patient 1

7 37. On or about February 4, 2015, Respondent began providing psychiatric treatment to
8 Patient 1, a then 38-year-old female. He was aware she was receiving treatment from Dr. S.B.,
9 Patient 1's primary care physician. Respondent did not take a history of medications being
10 prescribed or used, other than Celexa that she was receiving from Dr. S.B. for depression.

11 38. Patient 1 wondered to Respondent if she suffered from Bipolar Disorder, but
12 Respondent did not take a history to document what Patient 1 may have meant by the various
13 labels she may have given to her behaviors or symptoms, or the history of her symptoms. His
14 brief mental state exam of Patient 1 did not reveal significant abnormalities. Respondent did not
15 inquire into the reasons for Patient 1's reported suicide attempt in the past.

16 39. Respondent diagnosed Patient 1 with Bipolar Disorder, mixed. He did not list
17 sufficient symptoms to support that diagnosis. He prescribed Latuda 20 mg per day; Lamictal
18 100 mg per day; Celexa 40 mg per day; and amitriptyline 50 mg per day.

19 40. On or about March 18, 2015, Patient 1 returned to see Respondent. She continued to
20 have some problems with sleep. Respondent increased the Latuda to 40 mg per day; increased
21 Lamictal to 200 mg per day; increased amitriptyline to 300 mg per day; and kept the Celexa at 40
22 mg per day.

23 41. On or about April 29, 2015, Respondent saw Patient 1, who continued to have some
24 problems with sleep. Respondent increased the Lamictal to 300 mg per day; increased Latuda to
25 60 mg per day; increased Celexa to 60 mg per day; and kept amitriptyline at 300 mg per day.

26 42. On or about June 3, 2015, Respondent next saw Patient 1. Respondent discontinued
27 the amitriptyline. He increased Latuda to 80 mg per day. He kept Lamictal at 300 mg per day
28 and Celexa at 60 mg per day. He started her on Wellbutrin XL 150 mg per day and Trazodone at

1 100 mg per day.

2 43. On or about July 8, 2015, Patient 1 returned to see Respondent. Respondent
3 increased Wellbutrin XL to 300 mg per day, Lamictal to 400 mg per day, and Trazadone to 150
4 mg per day. He kept Latuda at 80 mg per day and Celexa at 60 mg per day.

5 44. On or about July 22, 2015, Respondent saw Patient 1. Respondent documented that
6 Patient 1 stated that she had manicky symptoms and mood changes, but he failed to record details
7 of her symptoms, except that Patient 1 had difficulty sleeping. Respondent stated this was due to
8 "racing thoughts," but he did not describe her symptoms so as to distinguish what Patient 1 might
9 have meant by "racing thoughts." Respondent increased Lamictal to 500 mg per day; increased
10 Wellbutrin XL to 450 mg per day; increased trazodone to 200 mg per day. He prescribed Latuda
11 80 mg per day and Celexa 60 mg per day.

12 45. On or about August 19, 2015, Respondent next saw Patient 1. Respondent
13 documented that he did not believe Patient 1 was having any side effects to medications, even
14 though she reported having visual disturbances. Respondent assumed the visual disturbances
15 were "psychotic" symptoms without documenting any psychotic thinking. Respondent did not
16 conduct cognitive testing or a mental status examination. The visual disturbances were likely
17 early signs of Serotonin syndrome.¹ Respondent prescribed Lamictal 500 mg per day; Wellbutrin
18 XL 450 mg per day; trazadone 200 mg per day; and Celexa 60 mg per day. He increased Latuda
19 to 120 mg per day, and added Trileptal 300 mg two times per day.

20 46. Respondent never obtained a history to support that Patient 1 ever had a Major
21 Depressive Episode or a Manic Episode or even a hypomanic episode. Respondent never ordered

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23 ¹ Serotonin syndrome is an uncommon, but potentially life-threatening, iatrogenic
24 toxidrome. It may occur following use or overdosage of certain proserotonergic drugs alone or in
25 combination. Trazodone, opioids, hydrocodone, oxcarbazepine, cyclobenzaprine, selective
26 serotonin reuptake inhibitors, serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, tricyclic
27 antidepressants, and atypical antipsychotics are associated with Serotonin syndrome alone or in
28 combination. The mental status changes seen with Serotonin syndrome include: anxiety,
agitation, confusion, hypomania, visual hallucinations, restlessness, disorientation, and coma.
The autonomic symptoms may include: tachycardia, labile blood pressure, dizziness, diaphoresis,
flushing, and hyperthermia. Milder forms may present with anxiety, akathisia, diarrhea, and
tremors, but full-blown Serotonin syndrome may present with altered mental status and
myoclonus. Severe serotonin toxicity may be a life-threatening crisis with muscular rigidity more
pronounced in lower extremities, hyperthermia, and coma.

1 any records or laboratory tests to check for hepatic or renal functioning or for pregnancy.

2 Respondent never considered if any of Patient 1's psychiatric symptoms were medication side
3 effects or from drug-to-drug interactions.

4 47. From approximately February 26, 2014, to approximately December 10, 2015, Patient
5 1 received Hydrocodone Bitartrate-Acetaminophen 325-10 mg from Dr. S.B. Commencing on or
6 about February 26, 2014, Patient 1 received 60 tablets per month. Commencing on or about
7 August 18, 2014, she received 120 tablets per month. Commencing on or about October 20,
8 2014, she received 180 tablets per month. In or around September 2014, she received 210 tablets.
9 In or around October 2015, she received 236 tablets. Patient 1 was also taking estrogen,
10 gabapentin 600 mg, and Flexeril.

11 48. On or about August 23, 2015, Patient 1 was hospitalized with respiratory failure and
12 altered mental status. She nearly died from drug-to-drug interactions.

13 49. On or about August 27, 2015, Patient 1 received a prescription from Dr. D.L. for
14 lorazepam, 1 mg, 10 tablets.

15 50. On or about November 25, 2015, Respondent met with Patient 1 and her mother.
16 Respondent denied any issues with his treatment as causing Patient 1's mental state alterations.
17 He acknowledged that Patient 1 was taking other medications, including pain medications.
18 Respondent stated in his note that he was sympathetic to Patient 1.

19 51. Respondent committed grossly negligent acts concerning Patient 1 as follows:

20 52. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
21 to obtain Patient 1's other treatment records before prescribing a large number of CNS
22 psychotropic medications with serious drug-to-drug interactions. He did not document any
23 information about the somatic medications that Patient 1 was currently taking, or how they would
24 interact with the medications that he was prescribing. Had he reviewed Patient 1's other
25 treatment records, Respondent would have learned that Patient 1 was taking medications that had
26 a significant and dangerous interactions with the medications that he was prescribing. Respondent

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1 did not run a Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System² (“CURES”) report
2 on Patient 1 to learn of her opioid prescriptions, or other controlled substances that she might
3 have been prescribed. A review of CURES would indicate that Patient 1 was physically
4 dependent on opioids.

5 53. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
6 prescribed amitriptyline to Patient 1. If Respondent believed Patient 1 suffered from Bipolar
7 Disorder, mixed, then his use of amitriptyline was risky and without justification.

8 54. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
9 prescribed multiple psychotropic medications in very high doses without awareness of other
10 psychoactive medications Patient 1 was taking. Respondent started Lamictal at an unsafe high
11 dose, and continued to increase Lamictal in dose steps higher than recommended for safe
12 practice. Respondent also started Trileptal at a high dose, with disastrous results. Patient 1 nearly
13 died from drug-to-drug interactions. Respondent did not have a good faith basis for believing that
14 Patient 1 had a form of mental illness that required the extremely aggressive treatment that he was
15 providing to her. It does not appear that Respondent considered that he was attempting to treat
16 symptoms that reflected drug toxicities. The multitude of prescriptions are in amounts and doses
17 that reflect excessive prescribing.

18 55. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
19 prescribed multiple CNS-impairing medications without any monitoring of CNS impairment, or
20 even noting the possibility of CNS impairment. Respondent was simultaneously prescribing a
21 relatively high dose of Celexa, a very high dose of Wellbutrin, a very high dose of Trileptal, as
22 well as Latuda and trazodone, all of which would add to the CNS depression and psychomotor
23 impairments of each other. Respondent failed to perform mental status examinations to attempt
24 to detect if there was medication impairment of cognition, in a patient showing signs of toxicity
25 with visual hallucinations. He failed to inquire about other medications from other prescribers
26 that result in CNS depression. Dr. S.B. was prescribing gabapentin, hydrocodone, and

27 ² CURES refers to the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System,
28 which is a government database containing information on Schedule II through IV controlled
substances dispensed in California.

1 cyclobenzaprine, all of which cause CNS depression.

2 56. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
3 to learn of other CNS depressants Patient 1 was taking before prescribing high doses of multiple
4 CNS depressants.

5 57. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
6 to warn Patient 1 of the off-label dangerous combination of medications he was prescribing and
7 failed to provide even minimal informed consent with such a dangerous combination of
8 medications.

9 58. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
10 to have an awareness of the dangers of the combinations of high dose medications he was
11 prescribing to Patient 1.

12 59. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
13 started Patient 1 on an initial dose of Lamictal 100 mg per day. Because of the danger of fatal
14 skin rashes, Lamictal should be increased slowly, starting at 25 mg per day. Fatal skin rash is
15 more common with rapid dose increase. A dose of 100 mg should not be reached until after four
16 weeks. Respondent did not warn Patient 1 about the risks of skin rash. He continued to escalate
17 the dosage of Lamictal by 100 mg at a time, until Patient 1 was taking a daily dose of 500 mg.
18 Respondent prescribing an ultra-high dose of Lamictal is unsupported.

19 60. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
20 escalated the amitriptyline dose. He escalated the dose of amitriptyline from 50 mg to 300 mg.
21 The rapid escalation could have made Patient 1 more susceptible to a manic switch. Respondent
22 increasing the dose by a factor of six is unsupported.

23 61. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he used
24 amitriptyline, to ultra-high doses of 300 mg per day. Amitriptyline is well documented to cause
25 mood state switches from depressed or mixed states to florid manic states. If Respondent actually
26 believed that Patient 1 suffered from Bipolar Disorder, the use of amitriptyline is contraindicated.
27 If amitriptyline is used, the risks associated with the use must be disclosed to the patient.
28 Respondent did not seem aware of the risks, and did not disclose the risks to Patient 1.

1 Amitriptyline posed no benefits over less toxic medications for insomnia or dysphoria, and many
2 more risks.

3 62. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
4 to warn Patient 1 of the risks of amitriptyline.

5 63. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
6 to maintain adequate and accurate records. Respondent was prescribing high dose CNS
7 medications to a patient already on multiple CNS psychoactive medications. The lack of outside
8 records contributed to Respondent's failure to monitor or properly treat Patient 1. Respondent
9 failed to document that he considered the risks of multiple high doses of psychotropic
10 medications; that he provided Patient 1 informed consent about the risks of the individual
11 medications or the risks of taking multiple psychotropic medications with a large number of
12 dangerous interactions; that he inquired about her comorbid medical treatments or requested a
13 Release of Information from Patient 1 for information from other treatment providers' records; or
14 that he considered the possibility of drug-to-drug interactions. There is no documentation
15 reflecting rational thought processes about prescribing high dose dangerous medications. There is
16 no documentation about what sort of symptoms Patient 1 was actually having, other than
17 Respondent's conclusory labeling of symptoms. There is minimal information about Patient 1's
18 life or life struggles. There is no indication that he tried to learn about the circumstances of
19 Patient 1's suicide attempt or why Patient 1 might be suggesting that she suffers from Bipolar
20 Disorder.

21 64. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
22 to maintain a current medication history.

23 65. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
24 reached unsupportable diagnoses, without obtaining information from prior treatment providers.
25 His prescribing excessive amounts of medications without a valid medical condition is without
26 justification.

27 66. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
28 to provide Patient 1 informed consent for medications he prescribed to her. Respondent failed to

1 warn her about the signs of either Serotonin syndrome or CNS over-sedation from the
2 combination of medications he was prescribing or from the medications he was prescribing, with
3 the medications other physicians were prescribing; about the dangers of amitriptyline if she were
4 actually suffering from Bipolar Disorder; about the off-label use of Trileptal; and about drug-to-
5 drug interactions and the risks of Serotonin syndrome or respiratory failure.

6 67. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
7 to consider all likely causes of Patient 1's visual disturbances and accurately diagnose Patient 1's
8 visual disturbances. The sudden appearance of visual disturbances or visual illusions in a non-
9 psychotic patient without a history of auditory hallucinations or delusions, is often the result of an
10 "organic" lesion, either a brain tumor, infection, or drug effects. Respondent failed to take a
11 history of Patient 1's symptoms of visual disturbances. Respondent failed to consider the most
12 common causes of visual disturbances in a non-psychotic patient. That failure resulted in Patient
13 1's continuing to take dangerous levels and dangerous combinations of drugs.

14 Patient 2

15 68. On or about May 26, 2011, Respondent began providing psychiatric treatment to
16 Patient 2, a then 55-year-old female who was raising three grandchildren because of her
17 daughter's drug problems. Patient 2 reported feeling overwhelmed and sad. She reported hearing
18 noises at night and worried that her house was haunted. With little documentation of actual
19 symptom severity or duration, Respondent diagnosed her with Major Depression with Psychotic
20 features. Respondent started her on Lexapro 10 mg and Risperdal 0.5 mg per day. Respondent
21 was aware of Patient 2 having comorbid medical problems.

22 69. On or about July 14, 2011, Respondent next saw Patient 2. Respondent misreported
23 the dose of medications he had placed her on. He reported that she was taking Risperdal 1.5 mg
24 per day (she was taking 0.5 mg) and Lexapro 20 mg per day (she was taking 10 mg). Respondent
25 believed that she was actively psychotic without evidence. Respondent prescribed Depakote ER
26 500 mg. He "increase[d]" Risperdal to 2.5 mg per day. He prescribed Lexapro at 20 mg per day.

27 70. On or about December 22, 2011, Patient 2 returned to see Respondent. Respondent
28 again misreported Patient 2's medications. He misreported that she was taking Risperdal 2.0 mg

1 per day (she was taking 2.5 mg) and Celexa 30 mg per day (she was taking Lexapro).

2 Respondent prescribed the medications he misreported and continued the Depakote ER 500 mg.

3 71. On or about February 27, 2012, Respondent treated Patient 2. Patient 2 was doing
4 better. Respondent increased Depakote to 1000 mg per day. He prescribed Risperdal 2 mg per
5 day and Celexa 30 mg per day.

6 72. On or about May 7, 2012, Respondent saw Patient 2. Patient 2 reported no symptoms
7 and asked to have her Risperdal decreased. Respondent decreased it to 1.0 mg per day. He
8 prescribed Depakote 1000 mg per day and Celexa 30 mg per day.

9 73. On or about June 4, 2012, Respondent next saw Patient 2. Patient 2 continued to do
10 well. She asked to be taken off all her medications. Respondent decreased the Risperdal to 0.5
11 mg; decreased the Depakote to 500 mg per day; and decreased Celexa to 20 mg per day.

12 74. On or about July 12, 2012, Patient 2 returned to see Respondent. She remained
13 without symptoms, but was still dealing with the problems of raising her grandchildren.

14 Respondent misreported that he had decreased the Celexa from 40 to 20 mg (he had decreased it
15 from 30 mg to 20 mg). Respondent discontinued the Risperdal. He kept the Depakote and
16 Celexa unchanged.

17 75. On or about August 20, 2012, Respondent treated Patient 2. Patient 2 was having
18 severe back pain which caused sleep problems. Respondent started Patient 2 on doxepin 100 mg
19 per day. He prescribed Celexa 20 mg per day and Depakote ER 500 mg per day.

20 76. On or about September 24, 2012, Respondent saw Patient 2. Patient 2 still had
21 insomnia. Respondent increased the doxepin to 300 mg per day. He kept the Celexa and
22 Depakote unchanged.

23 77. On or about November 1, 2012, Respondent next saw Patient 2. Respondent
24 discontinued the Depakote. It appears that he also discontinued the doxepin, but this is not
25 documented in his medical records for Patient 2. Respondent started Ambien 5 mg per day. He
26 prescribed Celexa 20 mg per day.

27 78. On or about December 3, 2012, Patient 2 returned to see Respondent. Her problems
28 with her grandchildren continued. He increased the Ambien to 10 mg per day. There is no

1 documentation about how often Patient 2 was using the Ambien, or if she was becoming tolerant
2 to it. There is no documentation of how Respondent told Patient 2 to use the Ambien or whether
3 he told her to use it every night. He also prescribed Celexa 20 mg per day.

4 79. On or about January 7, 2013, Respondent treated Patient 2. Patient 2 stated she was
5 wrong for asking Respondent to take her off Risperdal. She reported feeling overwhelmed with
6 anxiety. She stated she was paranoid and suspicious and believed she was being watched by
7 others. Respondent prescribed Risperdal 1.0 mg per day; Depakote ER 500 mg per day; and
8 Celexa 20 mg per day.

9 80. On or about February 4, 2013, Respondent saw Patient 2. She again reported feeling
10 overwhelmed by her situation. Respondent prescribed Risperdal 1.0 mg per day; Depakote ER
11 500 mg per day; Celexa 20 mg daily; and Ambien 10 mg per day.

12 81. On or about March 18, 2013, Respondent next saw Patient 2. Patient 2 reported that
13 she stopped taking Ambien, was more anxious, and was having more problems with insomnia.
14 Respondent did not consider the possibility that Patient 2 may have been having rebound or
15 withdrawal symptoms. He did not inquire why Patient 2 stopped taking the Ambien or document
16 whether he counseled her about the risks of suddenly stopping the Ambien. Respondent
17 continued the Ambien 10 mg per day. He kept the Depakote and Risperdal at the same dosage.
18 He increased Celexa to 40 mg per day.

19 82. On or about July 29, 2013, Patient 2 returned to see Respondent. Patient 2 reported
20 she was sleeping well. There is no documentation about her use of Ambien. Respondent
21 prescribed Risperdal 1.0 mg per day; Depakote ER 500 mg per day; Celexa 40 mg daily; and
22 Ambien 10 mg per day.

23 83. On or about August 22, 2013, Respondent treated Patient 2. Patient 2 reported seeing
24 shadows and hearing her name called. Respondent saw this as further proof that Patient 2 was
25 "psychotic." Inexplicably, Respondent placed her on Paxil 80 mg at once. His note states
26 "[i]ncrease Paxil to 80 mg daily." He raised Risperdal to 3.0 mg per day. Respondent started her
27 on Klonopin 1.0 mg per day. Respondent made no mention of the Ambien or Celexa he had been
28 prescribing. It appears that Respondent was confused about what he was in fact prescribing to

1 Patient 2.

2 84. On or about October 31, 2013, Respondent saw Patient 2. Patient 2 reported no
3 symptoms. Respondent prescribed Paxil 80 mg per day; Risperdal 3 mg per day; Klonopin 1 mg
4 per day; and Ambien 10 mg per day. There is no mention of any concern about additive CNS
5 effects. Respondent documented her diagnosis was Major Depressive Disorder, severe, with
6 psychotic features.

7 85. On or about January 23, 2014, Respondent next saw Patient 2 and continued the same
8 medications. Patient 2 reported no symptoms. Respondent documented her diagnosis was Major
9 Depressive Disorder, severe, recurrent with psychotic features.

10 86. On or about May 29, 2014, Patient 2 returned to see Respondent. She was again
11 without symptoms. Respondent informed Patient 2 to decrease the dose of Ambien to 5 mg, but
12 did not prescribe Ambien 5 mg, and continued to prescribe Ambien 10 mg. Respondent also
13 prescribed Paxil 80 mg per day; Risperdal 3 mg per day; and Klonopin 1 mg per day.

14 87. On November 13, 2014, February 12, 2015, June 25, 2015, September 24, 2015,
15 Respondent saw Patient 2. There was no change in medications. Respondent prescribed
16 Risperdal 3 mg per day; Paxil 80 mg per day; Klonopin 1 mg per day; and Ambien 10 mg per
17 day.

18 88. On or about December 17, 2015, Respondent next saw Patient 2. Respondent
19 decreased Risperdal to 2 mg. He did not change any other medications.

20 89. On or about February 11, 2016, Respondent treated Patient 2. There was no change
21 in medications. Respondent prescribed Risperdal 2 mg per day; Paxil 80 mg per day; Klonopin 1
22 mg per day; and Ambien 10 mg per day.

23 90. On or about May 3, 2016, Patient 2 returned to see Respondent. It appears the
24 diagnosis was changed to Bipolar II Disorder. There was no change in medication. However, the
25 computer printout now showed all of Patient 2's other medications which Respondent should
26 have been aware of earlier. Now that it was printed out in his note, he still demonstrated no
27 concern or provided any documentation of any concern about drug-to-drug interactions. Patient 2
28 was taking tramadol, cyclobenzaprine, gabapentin, and hydrocodone, in addition to the

1 psychotropics that Respondent was prescribing.

2 91. Respondent committed grossly negligent acts concerning Patient 2 as follows:

3 92. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
4 prescribed chronic doses of sedative-hypnotics to Patient 2. There was no evidence to support
5 that she had a panic disorder. He prescribed Ambien and/or Klonopin for nearly four years for
6 daily use. Respondent created an addiction in Patient 2 with no meaningful benefit to her.
7 Respondent did not inform Patient 2 about the danger of becoming addicted to Ambien and/or
8 Klonopin. Patient 2 was also taking opioid medications, but Respondent failed to document it.
9 Respondent did not consider that the use of benzodiazepines and opioids is particularly
10 dangerous, or any other drug-to-drug interactions or drug-to-drug CNS depression.

11 93. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
12 erratically switched medications and used them as though they were the same medications. On or
13 about December 22, 2011, Respondent switched Lexapro to Celexa, which are distinct
14 medications. On or about August 22, 2013, he switched Celexa to Paxil, which are also distinct
15 medications. Respondent did not provide a rationale for the switches in his notes. Patient 2, an
16 older patient, was exposed to Paxil suddenly at 80 mg per day.

17 94. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
18 initiated Paxil at 80 mg per day.

19 95. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
20 prescribed multiple CNS impairing medications without any monitoring of CNS impairment, or
21 even noting the possibility. Respondent simultaneously prescribed Klonopin 1.0 mg and Ambien
22 10 mg per day on a chronic basis. It appears that Patient 2 reported symptoms of withdrawal or
23 rebound. Respondent continued to prescribe a high dose of Ambien even after the U.S. Food &
24 Drug Administration ("FDA") issued warnings about the risks of consuming Ambien, on top of
25 the Klonopin dose. Respondent should have addressed this issue and initiated a gradual
26 withdrawal plan.

27 96. In addition to the Klonopin and Ambien, Respondent also prescribed an extremely
28 high dose of Paxil and Risperdal, all of which would add to the CNS depression and psychomotor

1 impairment. It also appears that Patient 2 was simultaneously taking hydrocodone,
2 cyclobenzaprine, gabapentin and tramadol, all of which would add to the CNS depression and
3 psychomotor impairment from the medications Respondent was prescribing. Respondent did not
4 make any notes demonstrating his awareness of the risks of CNS impairment in an older female
5 who may have been driving and was responsible for child care. Respondent did not perform
6 mental status examinations to attempt to quantify any CNS impairments.

7 97. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
8 treated Patient 2 with multiple proserotonergic medications, in addition to those prescribed by
9 other providers, without any monitoring. Risperdal, cyclobenzaprine, hydrocodone, tramadol,
10 Celexa, and Paxil all can contribute in an additive manner to Serotonin syndrome. Respondent
11 did not mention any concern about the drug-to-drug interactions in his records for Patient 2.

12 Patient 3

13 98. On or about August 5, 2014, Respondent began providing psychiatric treatment to
14 Patient 3, a then twenty-three-year-old male. Patient 3 reported prior psychiatric treatment at age
15 sixteen. He reported symptoms to Respondent of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder
16 ("OCD") behaviors. Respondent documented that he believed Patient 3 had OCD, but also
17 symptoms of bipolarity. Respondent started Patient 3 on Depakote ER 500 mg; Klonopin 1.0 mg;
18 and Zoloft 100 mg per day.

19 99. On or about September 2, 2014, Respondent saw Patient 3. Patient 3 reported his
20 anxiety was worse, and blamed it on Depakote. It appears Depakote was stopped. Respondent
21 then started Patient 3 on Lamictal 100 mg per day; Latuda 40 mg per day; and Luvox 100 mg per
22 day. He increased Klonopin to 1.5 mg per day. There is no indication whether Respondent
23 continued the Zoloft or stopped it.

24 100. On or about October 7, 2014, Respondent next saw Patient 3. Respondent felt there
25 were increased hypomanic symptoms. Respondent increased the Lamictal to 200 mg per day; the
26 Latuda to 60 mg per day; and the Luvox to 100 mg two times per day. The Klonopin dose
27 remained at 1.5 mg per day.

28 101. On or about November 4, 2014, Respondent treated Patient 3. Patient 3 complained

1 of muscle weakness and attributed it to the Latuda. Respondent decreased the Latuda to 40 mg
2 per day, and increased the Lamictal to 200 mg two times a day. The doses of Luvox and
3 Klonopin were not changed. Luvox remained at 100 mg two times per day. Klonopin remained at
4 1.5 mg per day.

5 102. On or about December 2, 2014, Patient 3 returned to see Respondent and continued to
6 complain of muscle weakness from Latuda. Respondent increased Lamictal to 500 mg per day.
7 Respondent appears to have restarted Depakote ER at 1000 mg per day. The doses of Luvox and
8 Klonopin were not changed. Luvox remained at 100 mg two times per day. Klonopin remained
9 at 1.5 mg per day.

10 103. On or about January 6, 2015, Respondent saw Patient 3. Respondent wrote that he
11 believed Patient 3 continued to have "racing thoughts and mood changes." He increased
12 Depakote ER to 1500 mg per day and Klonopin to 2.0 mg per day. He did not change the doses
13 of Luvox and Lamictal. Luvox remained at 100 mg two times per day. Lamictal remained at 500
14 mg per day.

15 104. On or about February 3, 2015, Respondent next saw Patient 3. Patient 3 complained
16 of not sleeping and feeling angry. Respondent stopped the Depakote. He started Patient 3 on
17 lithium 300 mg two times per day. He did not order baseline laboratory studies. He increased
18 Luvox to 300 mg per day. He did not change the doses of Lamictal and Klonopin.

19 105. On or about March 3, 2015, Patient 3 returned to see Respondent. Respondent
20 changed Patient 3's diagnosis to Bipolar Disorder mixed with psychotic features, without any
21 explanation. Patient 3 reported that he lost his job, and his wife moved out of the house.
22 Respondent stopped Lithium. He started Patient 3 on Seroquel XR 150 mg per day. He did not
23 change the doses of Klonopin, Luvox, and Lamictal. Klonopin remained at 2.0 mg per day,
24 Luvox remained at 300 mg per day, and Lamictal remained at 500 mg per day.

25 106. On or about March 31, 2015, Respondent treated Patient 3. Patient 3 reported an
26 improvement in his symptoms. Respondent increased Seroquel XR to 200 mg per day. He did
27 not change the doses of Klonopin, Luvox, and Lamictal. Klonopin remained at 2.0 mg per day.
28 Luvox remained at 300 mg per day. Lamictal remained at 500 mg per day.

1 107. On or about April 28, 2015, Respondent saw Patient 3. Patient 3 reported that he was
2 robbed at gunpoint at work, he experienced a home invasion robbery, and his wife was in her
3 third trimester of pregnancy. Respondent added the diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
4 He increased Seroquel XR to 400 mg per day. He did not change the doses of Klonopin, Luvox,
5 and Lamictal.

6 108. On or about June 24, 2015, Respondent next saw Patient 3. Patient 3 believed that
7 Lamictal was upsetting his stomach. Respondent discontinued Lamictal. He started Patient 3 on
8 BuSpar 10 mg three times a day and Trileptal 300 mg two times a day. He did not change the
9 doses of Klonopin, Luvox, and Seroquel XR. Klonopin remained at 2.0 mg per day. Luvox
10 remained at 300 mg per day. Seroquel XR remained at 400 mg per day.

11 109. On or about July 22, 2015, Patient 3 returned to see Respondent. Patient 3's two-
12 year-old son suffered a head injury. Patient 3 reported severe anxiety. Respondent increased
13 Trileptal to 600 mg two times per day and increased BuSpar to 15 mg three times per day.
14 Respondent continued Klonopin 2 mg, Luvox 300 mg, and Seroquel XR 400 mg daily.

15 110. On or about August 19, 2015, Respondent treated Patient 3. He described Patient 3 as
16 extremely anxious. Respondent reported that Patient 3's hands were wet with sweat. He
17 increased Trileptal to 1800 mg per day. He increased Klonopin to 2.5 mg daily. He did not
18 mention BuSpar. Respondent continued Luvox 300 mg and Seroquel XR 400 mg daily.

19 111. On or about September 30, 2015, Respondent saw Patient 3. Patient 3 reported
20 arguing with his wife. Respondent continued Seroquel XR 400 mg, Klonopin 2.5 mg, Luvox 300
21 mg, and Trileptal 1800 mg daily. Respondent advised Patient 3 to see a therapist with his wife.

22 112. On or about October 28, 2015, Respondent next saw Patient 3. Patient 3 reported that
23 his wife was having an affair with her boss and was pregnant. There was no change in
24 medications.

25 113. On November 10, 2015, Patient 3 returned to see Respondent. He remained upset
26 about his marriage. Respondent increased Seroquel XR to 600 mg per day. He continued
27 Klonopin 2.5 mg, Luvox 300 mg, and Trileptal 1800 mg daily.

28 114. On or about December 8, 2015, Respondent treated Patient 3. Patient 3 continued to

1 be upset about his marriage. He continued to have sweaty hands and anxiety. Respondent
2 increased Seroquel XR to 800 mg per day. He continued Klonopin 2.5 mg, Luvox 300 mg, and
3 Trileptal 1800 mg daily.

4 115. On or about January 5, 2016, February 2, 2016, March 23, 2016, April 27, 2016, and
5 May 25, 2016, Respondent saw Patient 3. Respondent continued Seroquel XR 800 mg, Klonopin
6 2.5 mg, Luvox 300 mg, and Trileptal 1800 mg daily.

7 116. On or about June 9, 2016, Respondent next saw Patient 3. It appears that
8 Respondent added Venlafaxine HCI ER 75 mg per day to Seroquel XR to 800 mg, Klonopin 2.5
9 mg, Luvox 300 mg, and Trileptal 1800 mg daily. There is no explanation for this prescription in
10 the encounter note.

11 117. On or about August 3, 2016, Respondent treated Patient 3. Respondent increased
12 Klonopin to 3.0 mg. He discontinued Venlafaxine.

13 118. Respondent committed grossly negligent acts concerning Patient 3 as follows:

14 119. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
15 started Patient 3 on an initial dose of Lamictal 100 mg per day. He did not warn Patient 3 of the
16 risks of skin rash.

17 120. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
18 started Patient 3 on lithium without baseline chemistries. Lithium is toxic to the kidneys and the
19 thyroid gland. Necessary baseline studies before initiating lithium therapy involve tests of
20 complete blood count, electrolytes, thyroid function, and renal function. Patients being started on
21 Lithium need to be made aware of the many common medications or activities that can increase
22 lithium levels to toxicity. Respondent did not provide any of this information to Patient 3.

23 121. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
24 prescribed multiple CNS impairing medications without any monitoring of CNS impairment, or
25 even noting the possibility. Respondent was simultaneously prescribing a relatively high dose of
26 Klonopin which by itself can cause paradoxical aggressive behaviors, due to its disinhibiting
27 effects. Patient 3 was showing signs of increased verbal aggression. Respondent should have
28 addressed this issue. In addition to the Klonopin, Respondent was also prescribing Trileptal,

1 Seroquel and Luvox, all of which would add to the CNS depression and psychomotor
2 impairment. Respondent did not perform mental status examinations to attempt to detect if there
3 was medication impairment of cognition, in a patient showing signs of aggression.

4 122. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
5 treated Patient 3 with multiple proserotonergic medications without any monitoring or comment
6 when Patient 3 began to show signs associated with Serotonin syndrome. Seroquel, Luvox,
7 Trileptal and BuSpar all can contribute in an additive manner to Serotonin syndrome. Patient 3
8 was complaining of muscle problems which may have been early signs of Serotonin syndrome.
9 Respondent noticed extreme sweating which is also a sign of Serotonin syndrome. Respondent
10 did not make any notation that he considered these effects as possibly due to Serotonin syndrome
11 even though he was prescribing four medications that could combine to create Serotonin
12 syndrome.

13 Patient 4

14 123. On or about October 4, 2014, Respondent treated Patient 4, a then thirty-four-year-
15 old male. He diagnosed Patient 4 with Panic disorder with agoraphobia and Major depressive
16 disorder, severe, recurrent. He prescribed Viibryd 40 mg daily; Risperdal 3.0 mg every day;
17 Wellbutrin XL 450 mg daily; and Ativan 0.5 mg daily.

18 124. On or about February 25, 2015, Respondent treated Patient 4. Respondent diagnosed
19 Patient 4 with Panic Disorder without agoraphobia; and Major Depressive Disorder, severe,
20 recurrent. There are nearly no descriptions of symptoms. Respondent prescribed Risperdal 3.0
21 mg every day; Viibryd 40 mg daily; Wellbutrin XL 450 mg daily; and Ativan 0.5 mg daily.
22 There is no indication in Patient 4's psychiatric records why Patient 4 required the doses or
23 combination of medications.

24 125. Respondent's medical records for Patient 4 show that he did not obtain any history of
25 current medication treatments for Patient 4, or indicate that he requested a Release of Information
26 from Patient 4 to learn of any current treatments or comorbid medical conditions. There is no
27 description of how frequently Patient 4 was having panic episodes, prior mental health treatment,
28 or any history of substance misuse.

1 126. On or about February 23, 2016, Respondent saw Patient 4. He did not mention any
2 overall clinical status for Patient 4, or any information about adverse medication effects. There is
3 no detail about any of the identified symptoms. He did not change Patient 4's medications, other
4 than the substitution of Klonopin 0.5 mg per day for Ativan.

5 127. The only clinical information that Respondent provided about Patient 4 is:
6 "Associated symptoms include insomnia, tingling, nausea, racing thoughts, depression, about
7 recurrent panic attacks. Associated symptoms include depressed mood, fatigue, poor sleep,
8 headaches and irritability."

9 128. On or about March 29, 2016, Respondent saw Patient 4. The only clinical
10 information that Respondent provided about Patient 4 is: "Associated symptoms include fatigue,
11 weight gain, irritability and social difficulties." He continued Viibryd 40 mg daily; Risperdal 3.0
12 per day; Wellbutrin XL 450 mg daily; and Klonopin 0.5 mg daily.

13 129. On or about May 31, 2016, Respondent saw Patient 4. Respondent changed Patient
14 4's diagnosis to Bipolar II Disorder, without any explanation for the change. He described
15 Patient 4 as asymptomatic. Respondent did not change Patient 4's medications. He did not
16 consider that Patient 4 may have had a "switch" state from the Viibryd.

17 130. Respondent described Patient 4's clinical condition as follows: "The patient is being
18 seen for a routine clinic follow-up of a bipolar disorder. The patient has a type II bipolar
19 disorder. The patient is currently asymptomatic. The rate of mood cycling is slow. He describes
20 this as mild. Exacerbating factors: emotional stress, fatigue and family stressors. Relieving
21 factors: bipolar medications and psychotherapy. Associated symptoms: anxiety symptoms.
22 Suicidal risk: no suicidal thoughts and no suicidal intention. Homicidal risk: no homicidal
23 thoughts and no homicidal intention. Current treatment includes atypical antipsychotics, mood
24 stabilizers and benzodiazepines. There are no medication side effects."

25 131. On or about June 28, 2016, Respondent saw Patient 4. Respondent described Patient
26 4 as improving from being described as asymptomatic. Despite improving from being
27 asymptomatic, Respondent diagnosed Patient 4 with "Generalized anxiety disorder (300.02)
28 (F41.1); and Bipolar II, mixed, severe with psychotic behavior (296.89) (F31.81)." He did not

1 mention any psychotic symptoms in the mental status exam section of Patient 4's psychiatric
2 records. Respondent did not change any medications. He continued Viibryd 40 mg daily;
3 Risperdal 3.0 per day; Wellbutrin XL 450 mg daily; and Klonopin 0.5 mg daily.

4 132. Respondent described Patient 4's clinical condition as follows: "The patient is being
5 seen for a routine clinic follow-up of a bipolar disorder. The patient has a type II bipolar disorder.
6 The patient is currently asymptomatic. There is no known event that preceded symptom onset.
7 The rate of mood cycling is slow. He describes this as mild and improving. Exacerbating factors:
8 emotional stress and fatigue. Relieving factors: bipolar medications and psychotherapy.
9 Associated symptoms: anxiety symptoms. Suicidal risk: no suicidal thoughts and no suicidal
10 intention. Homicidal risk: no homicidal thoughts and no homicidal intention. Current treatment
11 includes selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, atypical antipsychotics, mood stabilizers and
12 benzodiazepines. There are no medication side effects."

13 133. On or about August 2, 2016, Respondent saw Patient 4. Respondent changed Patient
14 4's diagnoses to "Depression." He continued Viibryd 40 mg daily; Risperdal 3.0 per day;
15 Wellbutrin XL 450 mg daily; and Klonopin 0.5 mg daily.

16 134. Respondent described Patient 4's clinical condition as follows: "Associated
17 symptoms include insomnia, tingling, nausea, racing thoughts, depression, about recurrent panic
18 attacks. Associated symptoms include depressed mood, fatigue, poor sleep, headaches,
19 irritability, social difficulties and financial difficulties, but no suicidal ideation, no suicide
20 attempt, no sense of failure, no poor concentration, no indecisiveness, no psychomotor
21 retardation, no hypersomnia, no racing thoughts, no periods of excess energy, no periods of
22 euphoria, no employment difficulties, no difficulty with activities of daily living, no delusions, no
23 auditory hallucinations and no visual hallucinations."

24 135. On or about September 6, 2016, Respondent's treated Patient 4. He changed Patient
25 4's diagnosis back to only Bipolar II, mixed, severe with psychotic behavior, without any
26 explanation. He continued Viibryd 40 mg daily; Risperdal 3.0 per day; Wellbutrin XL 450 mg
27 daily; and Klonopin 0.5 mg daily.

28 136. Respondent described Patient 4's clinical condition as follows: "The patient is being

1 seen for a routine clinic follow-up of a bipolar disorder. The patient has a type II bipolar
2 disorder. The patient is currently asymptomatic. Onset followed work problems and family
3 problems. The rate of mood cycling is slow. He describes this as mild and improving.
4 Exacerbating factors: emotional stress and job stressors. No associated symptoms are reported.
5 Suicidal risk: no suicidal thoughts, no suicidal intention, no suicide attempt(s) and no organized
6 plans. Homicidal risk: no homicidal thoughts, no homicidal intention, no homicide attempt(s)
7 and no organized plan. Current treatment includes selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors,
8 atypical antipsychotics, mood stabilizers and benzodiazepines. There are no medication side
9 effects.”

10 137. Patient 4’s psychiatric records, dated September 6, 2016, include the following list of
11 diagnoses: Bipolar II, mixed, severe with psychotic behavior (296.89) (F31.81); Chronic pain
12 syndrome (338.4) (G89.4); Depression (311) (F32.9); Drug addiction in remission (304.93)
13 (F19.21); Generalized anxiety disorder (300.02) (F41.1); Major depressive disorder, recurrent,
14 severe w/o psychotic behavior (296.33) (F33.2); Morbid obesity (278.01) (E66.01); Nicotine
15 dependence (305.1) (F17.200); Panic disorder with agoraphobia (300.21) (F40.01); and Sleep
16 apnea (780.57) (G47.30). Respondent did not make all the diagnoses. He did not correct any of
17 the diagnoses that he believed were inaccurate in the list.

18 138. Patient 4’s psychiatric records, dated September 6, 2016, include the following list of
19 psychoactive medications: baclofen 10 mg oral tablet (one to two tablets by mouth three times
20 daily); bupropion hcl ER (XL) 150 mg oral tablet extended release 24 hour (3 tablets daily);
21 clonazepam 0.5 mg oral tablet (1 tablet at bedtime); fentanyl 50 mcg/hr transdermal patch 72 hour
22 (1 patch every 2 days); hydroxyzine hcl- 25 mg oral tablet (1-2 tabs every 6 hours as needed for
23 itching); oxycodone hcl-10 mg oral tablet (take 1/2 to 1 tablet every 4-6 hours, as needed, pain
24 levels 8, 9 or 10); risperidone 3 mg oral tablet (1 tablet at bedtime); tramadol hcl- 50 mg oral
25 tablet (1 to 2 tablets every 6 hours, as needed for pain); and viibryd 40 mg oral tablet (1 tablet
26 daily).

27 139. Respondent committed grossly negligent acts concerning Patient 4 as follows:

28 140. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed

1 to obtain Patient 4's other treatment records before prescribing a large number of CNS
2 psychotropic medications with serious drug-to-drug interactions. Despite the patient's electronic
3 medical records listing all the concurrent medications and the many drug-to-drug interactions,
4 Respondent neither warned the other prescribers about the dangers nor took any steps to adjust
5 Patient 4's treatment to minimize drug-to-drug interactions. Respondent did not consider the
6 other medications that Patient 4 was taking, or how they would interact with the medications that
7 he was prescribing.

8 141. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
9 prescribed Viibryd in this patient already on a high dose of Wellbutrin, and with minimal
10 symptoms. The judgment that Patient 4 was not at risk for a Bipolar switch, reflected the lack of
11 the sort of screening recommended in FDA monographs.³ If Respondent actually believed that
12 Patient 4 suffered from Bipolar II Disorder, severe, his use of Viibryd was risky and without
13 justification.

14 142. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he added
15 benzodiazepines Ativan and Klonopin to the host of CNS depressants being taken simultaneously
16 by Patient 4. The addition of Ativan and Klonopin to a patient on a very substantial amount of
17 GABA agonists⁴ (including baclofen), and other CNS sedating medications, in a person with
18 substance misuse problems, was highly risky and unlikely to have any benefit.

19 143. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he
20 prescribed multiple CNS impairing medications without any monitoring of CNS impairment.
21 Respondent was simultaneously prescribing a relatively high dose of Viibryd, a very high dose
22 of Wellbutrin, a moderately high dose of Risperdal for a non-psychotic patient, as well as
23 clonazepam, all of which would add to the CNS depression and psychomotor impairments of
24 each other. Respondent failed to inquire about other medications from other prescribers that
25 result in CNS depression. He should have known that Patient 4 was taking multiple potent

26 _____
27 ³ FDA recommendations in drug monographs reflect the standard of care.

28 ⁴ A GABA receptor agonist is a drug that is an agonist for one or more of the GABA
receptors, producing typically sedative effects, and may also cause other effects such as
anxiolytic, anticonvulsant, and muscle relaxant effects.

1 opiates, tramadol, baclofen and hydroxyzine, all of which cause CNS depression at the
2 same time. Respondent did not perform mental status examinations to attempt to detect if there
3 was medication impairment of cognition, or motor performance.

4 144. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
5 to learn of the other CNS depressants that Patient 4 was taking before his prescribing doses of
6 multiple CNS depressants.

7 145. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
8 to have an awareness of the dangers of the combinations of high dose medications he was
9 prescribing on top of multiple other CNS depressants.

10 146. Respondent committed an extreme departure from the standard of care when he failed
11 to consider the danger of the combined use of benzodiazepines and opioids, any other drug-to-
12 drug interactions, or drug-to-drug CNS depression, and created an iatrogenic⁵ sedative addiction
13 in Patient 4. He prescribed Ativan and/or Klonopin to Patient 4 for nearly two years for daily use.
14 Respondent should have been concerned that Patient 4 was at very high risk of becoming addicted
15 to benzodiazepines. Respondent does not appear to have ever considered the dangers to Patient 4
16 of becoming addicted to Klonopin and/or Ativan, or that he ever informed Patient 4 about this
17 danger. Patient 4 was also taking opioid medications, but Respondent failed to document this.
18 The use of benzodiazepines and opioids is particularly dangerous. The FDA strongly warns about
19 the combined use of opioids and benzodiazepines. There is no evidence that Respondent
20 considered this or any other drug-to-drug interactions or drug-to-drug CNS depression.

21 147. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 37 through 146,
22 inclusive above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute
23 gross negligence pursuant to Code section 2234, subdivision (b). Therefore, cause for discipline
24 exists.

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28 ⁵ Iatrogenic means an unfavorable response to medical or surgical treatment induced by
the treatment itself.

1 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Repeated Negligent Acts-Patients 1, 2, 3, & 4)**

3 148. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (c),
4 in that he engaged in repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of patients 1, 2, 3, and 4.

5 The circumstances are as follows:

6 Patient 1

7 149. Paragraphs 37 through 67 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

8 150. Respondent departed from the standard of care when he failed to take a minimally
9 adequate history to support his diagnoses and misinformed Patient 1 of her actual psychiatric
10 problems. The diagnosis of Bipolar I Disorder is unsupported by the data. Respondent did not
11 take a meaningful medical, substance use information, or psychiatric history. He did not consider
12 the possibility of an iatrogenic opioid use disorder or chronic opioid use causing her mood
13 problems. An adequate history would have likely confirmed Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of
14 Mental Disorders criteria for opioid misuse.

15 Patient 2

16 151. Paragraphs 68 through 97 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

17 152. Respondent's diagnosis of Patient 2 was a departure from the standard of care. It
18 does not appear that he diagnosed the issues of family relationship problems or the Adjustment
19 Disorder of Patient 2. Instead, without reasonable documentation or sufficient data, Respondent
20 inaccurately diagnosed her with severe mental illness (Major Depressive Disorder, severe,
21 recurrent with psychotic features). There is no evidence for a Bipolar II Disorder.

22 Patient 3

23 153. Paragraphs 98 through 122 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

24 154. Respondent's diagnoses of Patient 3 were departure from the standard of care.
25 Patient 3 clearly suffered from OCD and anxiety. He may have also suffered from acute stress
26 disorder, not clearly from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It is much more unclear if Patient 3
27 ever had symptoms for hypomania, major depressive episode, or manic episode. Respondent's
28 description of racing thoughts is not further described and more likely represents another

1 symptom of anxiety rather than separate "bipolarity." Similarly, insomnia and irritability are
2 common symptoms of both anxiety and OCD. Respondent reached a very hasty conclusion that
3 Patient 3 suffered from "bipolarity" without any history taking of actual mood states lasting at
4 least one week. Respondent then began a very aggressive, and dangerous course of treatment for
5 Patient 3's alleged "bipolarity." Patient 3 was never psychotic despite Respondent diagnosing
6 him as having psychotic features.

7 Patient 4

8 155. Paragraphs 123 through 146 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

9 156. Respondent departed from the standard of care when he failed to take a minimally
10 adequate history to support his diagnoses. Respondent did not take any meaningful medical,
11 substance use information or psychiatric history, and make appropriate medication adjustments.
12 Respondent did not consider the possibility of an iatrogenic opioid use disorder, even though
13 another provider had indicated an issue with substance abuse. Respondent did not consider the
14 possibility of chronic opioid use causing Patient 4's mood problems or anxiety or his problematic
15 relationships or homelessness. Respondent did not describe enough symptoms to remotely
16 suggest that Patient 4 suffered from any form of Bipolar Disorder. Respondent did not suggest
17 sufficient symptoms to meet criteria for Major Depressive Disorder, particularly in a person
18 taking regular opioids. Respondent's description of Patient 4's depression is of minimal
19 symptoms, that could have been addressed by discussing lowering the opioid doses with Patient
20 4's other providers, and referring him for substance rehabilitation. An adequate history would
21 likely have confirmed Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders criteria for opioid
22 misuse. A treating psychiatrist would be expected to address a patient's substance use problems
23 even if iatrogenic. Respondent did not suggest sufficient symptoms to meet criteria for Panic
24 Disorder. This may have been a pretext diagnosis to explain the use of benzodiazepines.

25 157. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 149 through 156,
26 inclusive above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute
27 repeated negligent acts pursuant to Code section 2234, subdivision (c). Therefore, cause for
28 discipline exists.

1 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Incompetence-Patients 1, 2, 3, & 4)**

3 158. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (d),
4 for incompetence with respect to Patients 1, 2, 3, and 4. The circumstances are as follows:

5 **Patient 1**

6 159. Paragraphs 37 through 67 and 149 through 150 are incorporated by reference as if
7 fully set forth herein.

8 160. Respondent showed a lack of basic knowledge about psychopharmacology and drug-
9 to-drug interactions when he prescribed multiple psychotropic medications in very high doses
10 without awareness of other psychoactive medications Patient 1 was taking.

11 161. Respondent showed a lack of basic knowledge about prescribing practices and basic
12 psychopharmacology when he prescribed multiple CNS-impairing medications without any
13 monitoring of CNS impairment, or even noting the possibility of CNS impairment. He failed to
14 have an adequate understanding of the risks to Patient 1.

15 162. Respondent showed a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and
16 psychopharmacology when he started Patient 1 on an initial dose of Lamictal 100 mg per day.

17 163. Respondent showed a lack of basic knowledge of how to safely prescribe
18 psychotropic medications. Respondent should have considered that a patient with fibromyalgia or
19 chronic rheumatoid arthritis would be taking CNS active chronic medications. Respondent had a
20 duty to investigate the totality of the medications that Patient 1 was taking simultaneously with
21 the ones he was adding to her treatment. He had a duty to know the risks of each drug alone or in
22 combination, and convey that information to Patient 1.

23 164. Respondent had a duty to investigate whether the symptoms that Patient 1 reported
24 were medication side effects or the result of environmental or endogenous disease, unrelated to
25 medication treatment. Respondent failed to consider exogenous causes of Patient 1's symptoms
26 from the medications that she was taking. Respondent failed to consider that Dr. S.B.'s treatment
27 with Celexa, Flexeril, and high dose hydrocodone could have been the cause of Patient 1's
28 insomnia and "racing thoughts." Respondent did not inquire whether Patient 1 discontinued the

1 Celexa or was still taking it. Her symptoms could have reflected discontinuation or adverse
2 effects. Because he failed to take an adequate history, Respondent could not know whether
3 Patient 1's symptoms were medication induced. Respondent's approach to diagnosis and
4 differential diagnosis reflects a fundamental lack of knowledge of psychiatry and
5 psychopharmacology.

6 165. Respondent's lack of awareness of and failure to monitor for Serotonin syndrome
7 demonstrates a basic lack of knowledge about psychopharmacology. He was prescribing many
8 medications associated with Serotonin syndrome to Patient 1 who was already taking medications
9 associated with Serotonin syndrome. Respondent failed to monitor Patient 1's mental status,
10 attributed visual disturbances to "psychosis" in the absence of psychosis, and continued to
11 increase dosages of proserotonergic medications.

12 166. Respondent's lack of awareness of and failure to monitor for CNS depression
13 demonstrates a basic lack of knowledge about psychopharmacology. He was prescribing many
14 medications associated with CNS and respiratory depression to Patient 1 who was already taking
15 medications associated with CNS and respiratory depression. He failed to monitor her mental
16 status, and continued to increase dosages of multiple CNS depressant medications.

17 167. Respondent's failure to consider all likely causes and accurately diagnose Patient 1's
18 visual disturbance reflects a lack of basic knowledge of psychiatry.

19 Patient 2

20 168. Paragraphs 68 through 97 and 151 through 152 are incorporated by reference as if
21 fully set forth herein.

22 169. Respondent demonstrated a basic lack of knowledge about psychopharmacology
23 when he prescribed chronic doses of sedative-hypnotics to Patient 2. There was no evidence to
24 support that she had a panic disorder. He prescribed Ambien and Klonopin for nearly four years
25 for daily use. Respondent created an addiction in Patient 2 with no meaningful benefit to her.
26 Respondent did not inform Patient 2 about the danger of becoming addicted to Ambien and
27 Klonopin. Patient 2 was also taking opioid medications, but Respondent failed to document it.
28 Respondent did not consider that the use of benzodiazepines and opioids is particularly

1 dangerous, or any other drug-to-drug interactions or drug-to-drug CNS depression.

2 170. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of psychopharmacology when he
3 initiated Paxil at 80 mg per day.

4 171. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and of
5 psychopharmacology when he prescribed multiple CNS impairing medications without any
6 monitoring of CNS impairment, or even noting the possibility.

7 172. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and of
8 psychopharmacology when he treated Patient 2 with multiple proserotonergic medications, in
9 addition to those prescribe by other providers, without any monitoring. Risperdal,
10 cyclobenzaprine, hydrocodone, tramadol, Celexa, and Paxil all can contribute in an additive
11 manner to Serotonin syndrome. Respondent did not mention any concern about the drug-to-drug
12 interactions in his records for Patient 2.

13 Patient 3

14 173. Paragraphs 98 through 122 and 153 through 154 are incorporated by reference as if
15 fully set forth herein.

16 174. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and
17 psychopharmacology when he started Patient 3 on an initial dose of Lamictal 100 mg per day.

18 175. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and
19 psychopharmacology when he started Patient 3 on lithium without baseline chemistries.

20 176. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and
21 psychopharmacology when he prescribed multiple CNS impairing medications without any
22 monitoring of CNS impairment, or evening noting the possibility.

23 177. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and
24 psychopharmacology when he treated Patient 3 with multiple proserotonergic medications
25 without any monitoring or comment when Patient 3 began to show signs associated with
26 Serotonin syndrome.

27 Patient 4

28 178. Paragraphs 123 through 146 and 155 through 156 are incorporated by reference as if

1 fully set forth herein.

2 179. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and
3 basic psychopharmacology when he prescribed multiple CNS impairing medications without any
4 monitoring of CNS impairment.

5 180. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and
6 basic psychopharmacology when he failed to have an awareness of, and failed to monitor for,
7 CNS depression. Respondent was prescribing many medications associated with CNS and
8 respiratory depression to Patient 4 who was already taking medications associated with CNS and
9 respiratory depression. Respondent failed to monitor Patient 4's mental status, and never
10 adjusted Patient 4's medications to lower doses or discontinued them, when Patient 4 was in
11 remission.

12 181. Respondent demonstrated a lack of basic knowledge of prescribing practices and
13 basic psychopharmacology. There is very little evidence that Patient 4 had panic disorder, such
14 that a daily at bedtime dosing was appropriate. There was no basis for Respondent prescribing
15 chronic doses of sedative-hypnotics to Patient 4. Patient 4 was already troubled by opioid drug
16 addiction. Respondent created an addiction in Patient 4 with no meaningful benefit to him, and
17 with very high risks of adverse effects.

18 182. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraph 159 through 181,
19 inclusive above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute
20 incompetence pursuant to Code section 2234, subdivision (d). Therefore, cause for discipline
21 exists.

22 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

23 **(Excessive Prescribing-Patients 1, 2, 3, & 4)**

24 183. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 725 for repeated acts
25 of clearly excessive prescribing of controlled substances with respect to Patients 1, 2, 3, and 4.

26 The circumstances are as follows:

27 184. Paragraphs 36 through 182 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

28 185. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 36 through 182,

1 inclusive above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute
2 repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing pursuant to Code section 725. Therefore, cause for
3 discipline exists.

4 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

5 **(Prescribing without Medical Indication-Patients 1, 2, 3, & 4)**

6 186. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2242, subdivision (a),
7 in that he prescribed dangerous drugs without an appropriate prior examination and/or medical
8 indication to Patients 1, 2, 3, and 4. The circumstances are as follows:

9 187. Paragraphs 36 through 182 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

10 188. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 36 through 182,
11 inclusive above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute
12 prescribing dangerous drugs without an appropriate prior examination and/or medical indication
13 pursuant to Code section 2242, subdivision (a). Therefore, cause for discipline exists.

14 **SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

15 **(Inadequate and Inaccurate Record Keeping-Patients 1, 2, 3, & 4)**

16 189. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2266 for inadequate
17 and inaccurate record keeping with respect to Patients 1, 2, 3, and 4. The circumstances are as
18 follows:

19 190. Paragraphs 36 through 182 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

20 191. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 36 through 182,
21 inclusive above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute
22 inadequate and inaccurate record keeping pursuant to Code section 2266. Therefore, cause for
23 discipline exists.

24 **SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

25 **(Unprofessional Conduct-Patients 1, 2, 3, & 4)**

26 192. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234 for
27 unprofessional conduct with respect to Patients 1, 2, 3, and 4. The circumstances are as follows:

28 193. Paragraphs 36 through 191 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.


1 194. Respondent's acts and/or omissions as set forth in paragraphs 36 through 191,
2 inclusive above, whether proven individually, jointly, or in any combination thereof, constitute
3 unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 2234. Therefore, cause for discipline exists.

4 **PRAYER**

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

- 7 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number C 52017,
8 issued to Respondent Soleyman Mirakhor, M.D.;
- 9 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Soleyman Mirakhor,
10 M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 11 3. Ordering Respondent Soleyman Mirakhor, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the
12 Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
- 13 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

14
15
16 DATED: September 13, 2018


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

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