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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: **CHRISTOPHER WYKE SANGDAHL, M.D.** **2433 Vista Drive** **Upland, CA 91784** **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317,** Respondent.	Case No. 800-2017-033722 **A C C U S A T I O N**

PARTIES

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

2. On or about June 8, 1987, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317 to Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2021, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

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

4. Section 2227 of the Code states:

> (a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:
>
> (1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.
>
> (2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.
>
> (3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the board.
>
> (4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.
>
> (5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
>
> (b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1.

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

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

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CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

6. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code, in that he committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A[1] as more particularly alleged hereinafter.

7. On or about October 27, 2014, Patient A, a then 21-year old female, presented with complaints of depression, alcohol abuse, mood swings, anxiety and paranoia. Patient A was evaluated by Respondent, who diagnosed Patient A with Bipolar I Disorder, symptomatic, and Alcohol Dependence, symptomatic.

8. Respondent prescribed Lamictal[2] to Patient A with instructions to take an initial dose of 50 mg per day for seven days (week 1), 100 mg per day for seven days (week 2), 150 mg per day for seven days (week 3), and 200 mg per day for nine days (week 4).

9. Medical records for this visit indicate Patient A signed an informed consent which listed Lamictal, but did not list the potential risks and side effects of the medication. Records for this visit also do not document any discussion with Patient A regarding the initial dose being higher than recommended by the manufacturer and the increase in dosage being more aggressive than recommended by the manufacturer.

10. After taking the medication as directed by Respondent, after approximately two weeks, Patient A developed Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis.[3]

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[1] Patient identity has been withheld for patient privacy purposes. Respondent is aware of the identity of the patient referred to herein.

[2] Lamictal is a brand name for lamotrigine, an anticonvulsant medication commonly used to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorder. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires a black box warning to warn patients for risks of Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis. According to the Physicians' Desk Reference, a low initial dose and a gradual increase in dosage is recommended as follows: 25 mg per day for two weeks (weeks 1 and 2); 50 mg per day for two weeks (weeks 3 and 4), 100 mg per day for one week (week 5), then 200 mg per day thereafter (week 6 onward).

[3] Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome (SJS) and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) is a serious skin condition that causes the skin to develop rashes and blisters. It also causes extensive damage to the mucous membranes resulting in sores and blisters in the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals.

11. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A, which included, but is not limited to:

A. Paragraphs 6 through 10, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein;

B. Respondent failed to prescribe a sufficiently low initial dose of Lamictal to Patient A, Respondent failed to prescribe an appropriate gradual increase in dosage of Lamictal to Patient A, and Respondent failed to discuss, and/or failed to document the discussion of, all the risks and side effects of Lamictal and/or the risks and side effects of the alternative prescribing pattern of Lamictal with Patient A to obtain proper informed consent.

PRAYER

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

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317, issued to Respondent Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D.;

2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

3. Ordering Respondent Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and

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

DATED: JUN 0 3 2020

CHRISTINE J. LALLY
Interim Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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