

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 MATTHEW M. DAVIS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 GIOVANNI F. MEJIA
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 309951
600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
5 San Diego, CA 92101
P.O. Box 85266
6 San Diego, CA 92186-5266
Telephone: (619) 738-9072
7 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061

8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

13 In the Matter of the First Amended Petition to
Revoke Probation Against:

Case No. 800-2021-080216
OAH No. 2021110356

14 **MARGARET MELINDA SPRAGUE, M.D.**
15 **7257 La Jolla Blvd.**
16 **La Jolla, CA 92037-5437**

**FIRST AMENDED PETITION TO
REVOKE PROBATION**

17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**
No. G 56228,

18 Respondent.

19
20 Complainant alleges:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this First Amended Petition to Revoke
23 Probation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of
24 California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

25 2. On or about October 7, 1985, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
26 No. G 56228 to Margaret Melinda Sprague, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's
27 Certificate was in effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on
28 October 31, 2023, unless renewed.

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6. Section 1361.51, subdivision (f) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations states:

If the Board confirms that a positive biological fluid test is evidence of use of a prohibited substance, the licensee has committed a major violation, as defined in section 1361.52, and the Board shall impose any or all of the consequences set forth in section 1361.52, in addition to any other terms or conditions the Board determines are necessary for public protection or to enhance the rehabilitation of the licensee.

7. Section 1361.52 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations states, in pertinent part:

(a) A licensee who does any of the following shall be deemed to have committed a major violation of his or her probation:

...

(2) Commits multiple minor violations of probation conditions and terms;

...

(5) Fails to undergo biological fluid testing when ordered;

(6) Uses, consumes, ingests, or administers to himself or herself a prohibited substance;

...

(b) If a licensee commits a major violation, the Board will take one or more of the following actions:

(1) Issue an immediate cease-practice order and order the licensee to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation at the expense of the licensee. Any order issued by the Board pursuant to this subsection shall state that the licensee must test negative for at least a month of continuous biological fluid testing before being allowed to resume practice.

(2) Increase the frequency of biological fluid testing.

(3) Refer the licensee for further disciplinary action, such as suspension, revocation, or other action as determined by the Board.

(c) A licensee who does any of the following shall be deemed to have committed a minor violation of his or her probation:

...

(4) Fails to comply with any term or condition of his or her probation that does not impair public safety.

...

1 (e) Nothing in this section shall be considered a limitation on the Board's
2 authority to revoke the probation of a licensee who has violated a term or condition of
3 that probation.

4 **FIRST CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION**

5 **(Failure to Comply with Alcohol - Abstain from Use Condition)**

6 8. At all times after the effective date of Respondent's probation, Condition 10 of her
7 probation stated, in pertinent part: "[Respondent] shall abstain completely from the use of
8 products or beverages containing alcohol."

9 9. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because she failed to comply with
10 probation Condition 10, reference above. The facts and circumstances regarding this violation are
11 as follows:

12 10. On or about July 7, 2021, Respondent provided a biological fluid specimen that
13 subsequently tested positive for the presence of Phosphatidyl Ethanol (PEth), a biomarker or
14 metabolite of alcohol.

15 11. On or about July 28, 2021, the Board issued a Cease Practice Order (CPO) finding
16 that Respondent failed to obey conditions of her probation "by testing positive for the metabolites
17 of alcohol on July 7, 2021." The CPO provided that "Respondent shall not resume the practice of
18 medicine until she undergoes a clinical diagnostic evaluation and has 30 days of negative
19 biological fluid testing."

20 12. On or about September 21, 2021, the Board issued an order terminating the CPO.

21 13. On or about October 31, 2021, Respondent provided a biological fluid specimen that
22 subsequently tested positive for the presence of ethyl glucuronide, a biomarker or metabolite of
23 alcohol.

24 14. On or about October 31, 2021, Respondent provided a biological fluid specimen that
25 subsequently tested positive for the presence of ethyl sulfate, a biomarker or metabolite of
26 alcohol.

27 15. On or about November 8, 2021, Respondent provided a biological fluid specimen that
28 subsequently tested positive for the presence of PEth.

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1 tests....” Respondent complied with the conditions of the February 6, 2019 CPO and the Board
2 terminated the CPO on March 29, 2019.

3 21. To further determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent,
4 Complainant alleges that on or about April 5, 2019, the Board issued a Citation Order against
5 Respondent because she violated multiple conditions of her probation by:

6 ...testing positive for the metabolites of alcohol on January 29, 2019,
7 January 31, 2019, February 3, 2019, February 22, 2019, February 24, 2019 and
8 February 27, 2019.

8 The Citation Order included a \$350 fine and the following order of abatement:

9 The Board is ordering you to maintain compliance with all terms and conditions
10 of the Decision placing you on probation. You are given notice that any future
11 violation of your probationary terms and conditions may result in the filing of formal
12 disciplinary action to revoke your probation.

12 22. To further determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent,
13 Complainant alleges that in a Non-Compliance Letter dated May 29, 2019, a Board Probation
14 Analyst advised Respondent, among other things, that:

15 ...[a] recent positive biological fluid sample received by the Board was the
16 result of exposure to product [sic] or substances containing ethyl alcohol. When
17 subject to biological fluid testing it is your responsibility to limit exposure to product
18 [sic] or substances that may cause a positive result.

18 Failure to cooperate with the Biological Fluid Testing condition is considered a
19 violation of probation. Should you continue to use, consume, or ingest any
20 consumable products you have been instructed by the Board not to use, you may be in
21 violation of the Biological Fluid Testing condition and the Board may take
22 disciplinary action against your license.

21 23. To further determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent,
22 Complainant alleges that on or about June 20, 2019, the Board issued a Citation Order against
23 Respondent because she violated one or more conditions of her probation by “failing to provide a
24 biological fluid sample on June 1, 2019.” The Citation Order included a \$700 fine and the
25 following order of abatement:

26 The Board is ordering you to maintain compliance with all terms and conditions
27 of the Decision placing you on probation. You are given notice that any future
28 violation of your probationary terms and conditions may result in the filing of formal
disciplinary action to revoke your probation.

1 24. To further determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent,
2 Complainant alleges that on or about October 23, 2019, the Board issued a Citation Order against
3 Respondent because she violated multiple conditions of her probation by “testing positive for the
4 metabolites of alcohol on July 29, 2019, August 4, 2019, August 27, 2019 and September 1,
5 2019.” The Citation Order included a \$1,400 fine and the following Order of Abatement:

6 You must undergo a Clinical Diagnostic Evaluation within thirty (30) days of
7 receipt of this Citation Order and maintain thirty (30) days of clean biological fluid
8 testing. Further, the Board is ordering you to maintain compliance with all terms and
9 conditions of the Decision placing you on probation. You are given notice that any
10 future violation of your probationary terms and conditions may result in the filing of
11 formal disciplinary action to revoke your probation.

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1 **PRAYER**

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

4 1. Revoking the probation that was granted by the Medical Board of California in Case
5 No. 800-2016-028304 and imposing the disciplinary order that was stayed thereby revoking
6 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 56228 issued to Respondent Margaret Melinda
7 Sprague, M.D.;


8 2. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 56228, issued
9 to Respondent Margaret Melinda Sprague, M.D.;

10 3. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Margaret Melinda
11 Sprague, M.D.'s authority to supervise physicians assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the
12 Code, and advanced practice nurses;

13 4. Ordering Respondent Margaret Melinda Sprague, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay
14 the costs of probation monitoring; and

15 5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

16
17 DATED: **FEB 18 2022**

18 
19 WILLIAM PRASIFKA
20 Executive Director
21 Medical Board of California
22 Department of Consumer Affairs
23 State of California
24 Complainant

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Exhibit A

Decision and Order

Medical Board of California Case No. 800-2016-028304

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

In the Matter of the Petition for the
Reinstatement of Revoked License by:

MARGARET MELINDA SPRAGUE, M.D.,

Petitioner.

Case No. 800-2016-028304

OAH No. 2018021027

DECISION AFTER NON-ADOPTION

Roy W. Hewitt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), Office of Administrative Hearings, State of California, heard this matter in San Diego, California, on June 1, 2018.

Giovanni F. Mejia, Deputy Attorney General, represented the Office of the Attorney General, State of California, as authorized by Government Code section 11522.

David M. Balfour, Esq. represented Margaret Melinda Sprague, M.D., petitioner. Petitioner was present with counsel throughout the hearing.

Petitioner's testimony, petitioner's statement in support of the petition for reinstatement, documents, and the arguments and observations of counsel for petitioner and the Deputy Attorney General were presented.

The record remained open to permit the parties to submit written closing statements. The statements were received on July 18, 2018. The Deputy Attorney General's written statement was marked as Exhibit 12, and was received as evidence. Petitioner's written statement was marked as Exhibit X, and was received as evidence. The record was closed and the matter was submitted on June 18, 2018.

On July 10, 2018 ALJ Hewitt issued his Proposed Decision. Panel B of the Medical Board of California ("Board") declined to adopt the Proposed Decision and on August 3, 2018 issued its Order of Non-Adoption of Proposed Decision and afforded the parties the opportunity for written argument. Panel B fixed the date of oral argument for October 18, 2018. The Panel having read and considered the administrative record and the written arguments submitted by the parties, and having heard oral argument, hereby renders its decision in this matter.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

1. On October 7, 1985, the Medical Board of Californian (board) issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 56228 to petitioner.

2. On November 25, 2003, an accusation was filed against petitioner. On December 3, 2003, an Interim Order of Suspension-No Practice was issued on an ex parte basis and that was upheld on January 13, 2004, after a hearing. Ultimately, a Decision revoking petitioner's certificate was issued that became effective on May 19, 2005. The revocation was based on the following: petitioner violated Business and Professions Code section 2239 (unlawful use of controlled substances, to wit: cocaine); and violated Business and Professions Code section 822 (petitioner was physically ill due to her addiction to cocaine, which affected her competency and impaired her ability to practice medicine safely).

3. On November 19, 2016, petitioner signed, and thereafter submitted to the board, a Petition for Penalty Relief in which she seeks the reinstatement of her revoked certificate.

Rehabilitation

4. The 2005 revocation of petitioner's certificate occurred as a result of her addiction to cocaine. After the revocation petitioner began caring for her elderly mother, who was suffering with Parkinson's disease. Petitioner's mother passed away in 2013 and petitioner's husband passed away in 2014. Thereafter, petitioner focused on her recovery from addiction and her desire to return the practice of child psychiatry.

5. Petitioner maintains her recovery by attending recovery meetings on an average of three days per week, meeting weekly with a physician monitor and participating in random drug testing by checking in every day and providing urine samples as required.

6. Petitioner presented Urine Drug Screening results from random drug testing from November of 2016 through March of 2018. The results supported petitioner's assertion that she has remained clean and sober.

7. Petitioner presented documents showing that from 2014 to the present she has completed approximately 200 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits.

8. Petitioner presented eight letters in support of her reinstatement. The letters were from colleagues, friends, relatives and therapists.

9. In addition to maintaining her recovery, petitioner obtained treatment for depression. Her treating psychiatrist, Dr. Steven Stahl, reviewed petitioner's history of cocaine addiction and recovery and her battle with depression. Based on petitioner's history and physical examination, Dr. Stahl prescribed Parnate, an MAOI medication.¹ Petitioner has

¹ MAOI medications are incompatible with cocaine. The combination of cocaine and MAOI medication is potentially fatal.

remained on Parnate since 2006 and her depression is "stable and in remission."

10. Dr. Andrea Bower, M.D., a family practitioner who is also in recovery, testified on petitioner's behalf. Dr. Bower is a civilian employee with Naval Branch Health in Kearny Mesa, California. Dr. Bower sees approximately 90 patients per week. In 2014 petitioner asked Dr. Bower to become her AA sponsor. Dr. Bower has been petitioner's sponsor since then. Dr. Bower corroborated petitioner's testimony that petitioner regularly attends Cocaine Anonymous (CA) meetings, Hospital and Institutions Recovery programs, AA meetings, Caduceus recovering physicians AA group meetings; and, in addition, petitioner provides a great deal of volunteer work to support recovery programs. Dr. Bower fully supports petitioner's desire to return to practice and recommended petitioner undergo an assessment at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Physician's Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) Program, a well-known, highly respected, program that evaluates a physician and surgeon's ability to safely return to practice medicine.

UCSD PACE Program

11. Petitioner accepted Dr. Bower's recommendation and underwent a comprehensive evaluation of her competency to safely resume her practice as a child psychiatrist. The conclusions reached by the UCSD PACE Program comprehensive examination/evaluation are set forth in a May 17, 2018, 26-page, PACE report. In pertinent part, the report concluded, as follows:

Ms. Sprague's overall performance on our comprehensive physician assessment is consistent with a **Pass, Category 3²**, ... given Ms. Sprague's lengthy absence from practicing medicine, coupled with the deficits identified on our evaluation, a number of safeguards should be put in place to ensure patient safety as she returns to practice. Specifically, we recommend the following with respect to Ms. Sprague: 1) her scope of practice should be restricted to the field of psychiatry; 2) she should be prohibited from solo practice for a minimum of two years from the time she resumes practicing and she be required to work only with board certified psychiatrists; 3) she should be required to have a Medical Board of California approved practice monitor for a minimum of three years who is also board certified in psychiatry; 4) our report should be provided to Ms. Sprague's Board-approved

² **Category 3** is described by PACE as follows:

Significant deficiencies were noted. The physician is capable of practicing safely, but may not currently be reaching his/her full potential. Physicians in this category are likely to have broad deficiencies that cover multiple domains and will require a considerable educational investment and occasionally a change in behavior. Recommendations for how to remediate deficiencies will be outlined [in the PACE report].

practice monitor as well as her practice partners so they can continue to work with her on the deficiencies noted above; and 5) she should improve her knowledge of Suboxone, clonidine and lithium through self-study. (Exh. G, AGO-0128)

LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

1. In a proceeding for the restoration of a revoked license, the burden at all times rests on petitioner to prove that she has rehabilitated herself and that she is entitled to have her license restored. (*Flanzer v. Bd. of Dental Examiners* (1990) 220 Cal.App.3d 1392, 1398.) A person seeking reinstatement of a revoked license must present strong proof of rehabilitation, and the showing must be sufficient to overcome the former adverse determination. The standard of proof is clear and convincing evidence. (*Housman v. Bd. of Medical Examiners* (1948) 84 Cal.App.2d, 308, 315-316.)

2. Petitioner clearly and convincingly established that her petition for reinstatement of her certificate should be granted on a probationary basis with terms and conditions of probation in place to ensure her medical/professional skills are current and as necessary to protect the public.

ORDER

The petition of petitioner, Margaret Melinda Sprague, for reinstatement of her certificate is granted. A Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate shall be issued to petitioner. Said certificate shall immediately be revoked, the order of revocation shall be stayed, and petitioner shall be placed on probation for a period of five years on the following conditions:

1. Medical Evaluation

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, petitioner shall undergo a medical evaluation by a Board-appointed physician who shall consider any information provided by the Board or designee and any other information the evaluating physician deems relevant and shall furnish a medical report to the Board or its designee indicating petitioner's physical fitness to practice safely. Petitioner shall provide the evaluating physician any information and documentation that the evaluating physician may deem pertinent. Petitioner shall provide the Board or its designee with any and all medical records pertaining to treatment that the Board or its designee deems necessary. Petitioner shall pay the cost of the medical evaluation.

Petitioner shall not engage in the practice of medicine until notified in writing by the Board or its designee of its determination that the petitioner is medically fit to practice safely. The period of time that Petitioner is not practicing medicine shall not be counted toward completion of the term of probation.

2. Neurocognitive Evaluation

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, petitioner shall undergo and complete a neurocognitive evaluation by a Board-appointed psychologist licensed by

the California Board of Psychology, who practices neuropsychology, and who shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee and any other information the psychologist deems relevant, and shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its designee. Any evaluation conducted prior to the effective date of the Decision shall not be accepted towards the fulfillment of this requirement. Petitioner shall pay the cost of all evaluations and psychological testing.

Petitioner shall not engage in the practice of medicine until notified in writing by the Board or its designee of its determination that the petitioner is fit to practice safely. The period of time that Petitioner is not practicing medicine shall not be counted toward completion of the term of probation.

3. Clinical Diagnostic Evaluations and Reports

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on whatever periodic basis thereafter as may be required by the Board or its designee, petitioner shall undergo and complete a clinical diagnostic evaluation, including any and all testing deemed necessary, by a Board-appointed board certified physician and surgeon. The examiner shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee and any other information he or she deems relevant, and shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its designee.

The clinical diagnostic evaluation shall be conducted by a licensed physician and surgeon who holds a valid, unrestricted license, has three (3) years' experience in providing evaluations of physicians and surgeons with substance abuse disorders, and is approved by the Board or its designee. The clinical diagnostic evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with acceptable professional standards for conducting substance abuse clinical diagnostic evaluations. The evaluator shall not have a current or former financial, personal, or business relationship with petitioner within the last five (5) years. The evaluator shall provide an objective, unbiased, and independent evaluation. The clinical diagnostic evaluation report shall set forth, in the evaluator's opinion, whether petitioner has a substance abuse problem, whether petitioner is a threat to himself/herself or others, and recommendations for substance abuse treatment, practice restrictions, or other recommendations related to petitioner's rehabilitation and ability to practice safely. If the evaluator determines during the evaluation process that petitioner is a threat to himself/herself or others, the evaluator shall notify the Board within twenty-four (24) hours of such a determination.

In formulating his or her opinion as to whether petitioner is safe to return to either part-time or full-time practice and what restrictions or recommendations should be imposed, including participation in an inpatient or outpatient treatment program, the evaluator shall consider the following factors: petitioner's license type; petitioner's history; petitioner's documented length of sobriety (i.e., length of time that has elapsed since petitioner's last substance use); petitioner's scope and pattern of substance abuse; petitioner's treatment history, medical history and current medical condition; the nature, duration and severity of petitioner's substance abuse problem or problems; and whether petitioner is a threat to himself/herself or the public.

For all clinical diagnostic evaluations, a final written report shall be provided to the Board no later than ten (10) days from the date the evaluator is assigned the matter. If the

evaluator requests additional information or time to complete the evaluation and report, an extension may be granted, but shall not exceed thirty (30) days from the date the evaluator was originally assigned the matter.

The Board shall review the clinical diagnostic evaluation report within five (5) business days of receipt to determine whether petitioner is safe to return to either part-time or full-time practice and what restrictions or recommendations shall be imposed on petitioner based on the recommendations made by the evaluator. Petitioner shall not be returned to practice until he/she has at least thirty (30) days of negative biological fluid tests or biological fluid tests indicating that he/she has not used, consumed, ingested, or administered to himself/herself a prohibited substance, as defined in section 1361.51, subdivision (e), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.

Clinical diagnostic evaluations conducted prior to the effective date of this Decision shall not be accepted towards the fulfillment of this requirement. The cost of the clinical diagnostic evaluation, including any and all testing deemed necessary by the examiner, the Board or its designee, shall be borne by the licensee.

Petitioner shall not engage in the practice of medicine until notified by the Board or its designee that he/she is fit to practice medicine safely. The period of time that petitioner is not practicing medicine shall not be counted toward completion of the term of probation. Petitioner shall undergo biological fluid testing as required in this Decision at least two (2) times per week while awaiting the notification from the Board if he/she is fit to practice medicine safely.

Petitioner shall comply with all restrictions or conditions recommended by the examiner conducting the clinical diagnostic evaluation within fifteen (15) calendar days after being notified by the Board or its designee.

4. Notice of Employer or Supervisor Information

Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, petitioner shall provide to the Board the names, physical addresses, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers of any and all employers and supervisors. Petitioner shall also provide specific, written consent for the Board, petitioner's worksite monitor, and petitioner's employers and supervisors to communicate regarding petitioner's work status, performance, and monitoring.

For purposes of this section, "supervisors" shall include the Chief of Staff and Health or Well Being Committee Chair, or equivalent, if applicable, when petitioner has medical staff privileges.

5. Biological Fluid Testing

Petitioner shall immediately submit to biological fluid testing, at petitioner's expense, upon request of the Board or its designee. "Biological fluid testing" may include, but is not limited to, urine, blood, breathalyzer, hair follicle testing, or similar drug screening approved by the Board or its designee. Petitioner shall make daily contact with the Board or its designee to determine whether biological fluid testing is required. Petitioner shall be tested on the date of the notification as directed by the Board or its designee. The Board may order a petitioner to undergo

a biological fluid test on any day, at any time, including weekends and holidays. Except when testing on a specific date as ordered by the Board or its designee, the scheduling of biological fluid testing shall be done on a random basis. The cost of biological fluid testing shall be borne by petitioner.

During the first year of probation, petitioner shall be subject to 52 to 104 random tests. During the second year of probation and for the duration of the probationary term, petitioner shall be subject to 36 to 104 random tests per year. Nothing precludes the Board from increasing the number of random tests to the first-year level of frequency for any reason.

Prior to practicing medicine, petitioner shall contract with a laboratory or service, approved in advance by the Board or its designee, which will conduct random, unannounced, observed, biological fluid testing and meets all the following standards:

- (a) Its specimen collectors are either certified by the Drug and Alcohol Testing Industry Association or have completed the training required to serve as a collector for the United States Department of Transportation.
- (b) Its specimen collectors conform to the current United States Department of Transportation Specimen Collection Guidelines.
- (c) Its testing locations comply with the Urine Specimen Collection Guidelines published by the United States Department of Transportation without regard to the type of test administered.
- (d) Its specimen collectors observe the collection of testing specimens.
- (e) Its laboratories are certified and accredited by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- (f) Its testing locations shall submit a specimen to a laboratory within one (1) business day of receipt and all specimens collected shall be handled pursuant to chain of custody procedures. The laboratory shall process and analyze the specimens and provide legally defensible test results to the Board within seven (7) business days of receipt of the specimen. The Board will be notified of non-negative results within one (1) business day and will be notified of negative test results within seven (7) business days.
- (g) Its testing locations possess all the materials, equipment, and technical expertise necessary in order to test petitioner on any day of the week.
- (h) Its testing locations are able to scientifically test for urine, blood, and hair specimens for the detection of alcohol and illegal and controlled substances.
- (i) It maintains testing sites located throughout California.
- (j) It maintains an automated 24-hour toll-free telephone system and/or a secure on-line computer database that allows the petitioner to check in daily

for testing.

(k) It maintains a secure, HIPAA-compliant website or computer system that allows staff access to drug test results and compliance reporting information that is available 24 hours a day.

(l) It employs or contracts with toxicologists that are licensed physicians and have knowledge of substance abuse disorders and the appropriate medical training to interpret and evaluate laboratory biological fluid test results, medical histories, and any other information relevant to biomedical information.

(m) It will not consider a toxicology screen to be negative if a positive result is obtained while practicing, even if the petitioner holds a valid prescription for the substance.

Prior to changing testing locations for any reason, including during vacation or other travel, alternative testing locations must be approved by the Board and meet the requirements above.

The contract shall require that the laboratory directly notify the Board or its designee of non-negative results within one (1) business day and negative test results within seven (7) business days of the results becoming available. Petitioner shall maintain this laboratory or service contract during the period of probation.

A certified copy of any laboratory test result may be received in evidence in any proceedings between the Board and petitioner.

If a biological fluid test result indicates petitioner has used, consumed, ingested, or administered to himself/herself a prohibited substance, the Board shall order petitioner to cease practice and instruct petitioner to leave any place of work where petitioner is practicing medicine or providing medical services. The Board shall immediately notify all of petitioner's employers, supervisors and work monitors, if any, that petitioner may not practice medicine or provide medical services while the cease-practice order is in effect.

A biological fluid test will not be considered negative if a positive result is obtained while practicing, even if petitioner holds a valid prescription for the substance. If no prohibited substance use exists, the Board shall lift the cease-practice order within one (1) business day.

After the issuance of a cease-practice order, the Board shall determine whether the positive biological fluid test is in fact evidence of prohibited substance use by consulting with the specimen collector and the laboratory, communicating with the licensee, his/her treating physician(s), other health care provider, or group facilitator, as applicable.

For purposes of this condition, the terms "biological fluid testing" and "testing" mean the acquisition and chemical analysis of petitioner's urine, blood, breath, or hair.

For purposes of this condition, the term "prohibited substance" means an illegal drug, a lawful drug not prescribed or ordered by an appropriately licensed health care provider for use by

petitioner and approved by the Board, alcohol, or any other substance petitioner has been instructed by the Board not to use, consume, ingest, or administer to himself/herself.

If the Board confirms that a positive biological fluid test is evidence of use of a prohibited substance, petitioner has committed a major violation, as defined in section 1361.52(a), and the Board shall impose any or all of the consequences set forth in section 1361.52(b), in addition to any other terms or conditions the Board determines are necessary for public protection or to enhance petitioner's rehabilitation.

6. Substance Abuse Support Group Meetings

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Decision, petitioner shall submit to the Board or its designee, for its prior approval, the name of a substance abuse support group which he/she shall attend for the duration of probation. Petitioner shall attend substance abuse support group meetings at least once per week, or as ordered by the Board or its designee. Petitioner shall pay all substance abuse support group meeting costs.

The facilitator of the substance abuse support group meeting shall have a minimum of three (3) years of experience in the treatment and rehabilitation of substance abuse, and shall be licensed or certified by the state or nationally certified organizations. The facilitator shall not have a current or former financial, personal, or business relationship with petitioner within the last five (5) years. Petitioner's previous participation in a substance abuse group support meeting led by the same facilitator does not constitute a prohibited current or former financial, personal, or business relationship.

The facilitator shall provide a signed document to the Board or its designee showing petitioner's name, the group name, the date and location of the meeting, petitioner's attendance, and petitioner's level of participation and progress. The facilitator shall report any unexcused absence by petitioner from any substance abuse support group meeting to the Board, or its designee, within twenty-four (24) hours of the unexcused absence.

7. Worksite Monitor for Substance-Abusing Licensee

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, petitioner shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval as a worksite monitor, the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physician(s) and surgeon(s), other licensed health care professional if no physician and surgeon is available, or, as approved by the Board or its designee, a person in a position of authority who is capable of monitoring petitioner at work.

The worksite monitor shall not have a current or former financial, personal, or familial relationship with petitioner, or any other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the ability of the monitor to render impartial and unbiased reports to the Board or its designee. If it is impractical for anyone but petitioner's employer to serve as the worksite monitor, this requirement may be waived by the Board or its designee, however, under no circumstances shall petitioner's worksite monitor be an employee or supervisee of the licensee.

The worksite monitor shall have an active unrestricted license with no disciplinary action within the last five (5) years, and shall sign an affirmation that he/she has reviewed the terms and conditions of petitioner's disciplinary order and agrees to monitor petitioner as set forth by the Board or its designee.

Petitioner shall pay all worksite monitoring costs.

The worksite monitor shall have face-to-face contact with petitioner in the work environment on as frequent a basis as determined by the Board or its designee, but not less than once per week; interview other staff in the office regarding petitioner's behavior, if requested by the Board or its designee; and review petitioner's work attendance.

The worksite monitor shall verbally report any suspected substance abuse to the Board and petitioner's employer or supervisor within one (1) business day of occurrence. If the suspected substance abuse does not occur during the Board's normal business hours, the verbal report shall be made to the Board or its designee within one (1) hour of the next business day. A written report that includes the date, time, and location of the suspected abuse; petitioner's actions; and any other information deemed important by the worksite monitor shall be submitted to the Board or its designee within 48 hours of the occurrence.

The worksite monitor shall complete and submit a written report monthly or as directed by the Board or its designee which shall include the following: (1) petitioner's name and Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate number; (2) the worksite monitor's name and signature; (3) the worksite monitor's license number, if applicable; (4) the location or location(s) of the worksite; (5) the dates petitioner had face-to-face contact with the worksite monitor; (6) the names of worksite staff interviewed, if applicable; (7) a report of petitioner's work attendance; (8) any change in petitioner's behavior and/or personal habits; and (9) any indicators that can lead to suspected substance abuse by petitioner. Petitioner shall complete any required consent forms and execute agreements with the approved worksite monitor and the Board, or its designee, authorizing the Board, or its designee, and worksite monitor to exchange information.

If the worksite monitor resigns or is no longer available, petitioner shall, within five (5) calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within fifteen (15) calendar days. If petitioner fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within sixty (60) calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, petitioner shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Petitioner shall cease the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and assumes monitoring responsibility.

8. Violation of Probation Condition for Substance-Abusing Licensees

Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation.

(A) If petitioner commits a major violation of probation as defined by section 1361.52, subdivision (a), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board shall take one or more of the following actions:

(1) Issue an immediate cease-practice order and order petitioner to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation to be conducted in accordance with section 1361.5, subdivision (c)(1), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, at petitioner's expense. The cease-practice order issued by the Board or its designee shall state that petitioner must test negative for at least a month of continuous biological fluid testing before being allowed to resume practice. For purposes of determining the length of time petitioner must test negative while undergoing continuous biological fluid testing following issuance of a cease-practice order, a month is defined as thirty calendar (30) days. Petitioner may not resume the practice of medicine until notified in writing by the Board or its designee that he/she may do so.

(2) Increase the frequency of biological fluid testing.

(3) Refer petitioner for further disciplinary action, such as suspension, revocation, or other action as determined by the Board or its designee. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 16, § 1361.52, subd. (b).)

(B) If petitioner commits a minor violation of probation as defined by section 1361.52, subdivision (c), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board shall take one or more of the following actions:

(1) Issue a cease-practice order;

(2) Order practice limitations;

(3) Order or increase supervision of petitioner;

(4) Order increased documentation;

(5) Issue a citation and fine, or a warning letter;

(6) Order petitioner to undergo a clinical diagnostic evaluation to be conducted in accordance with section 1361.5, subdivision (c)(1), of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, at petitioner's expense;

(7) Take any other action as determined by the Board or its designee. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 16, § 1361.52, subd. (d).)

(C) Nothing in this Decision shall be considered a limitation on the Board's authority to revoke petitioner's probation if he/she has violated any term or condition of probation. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 16, § 1361.52, subd. (e).) If petitioner violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving petitioner notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the

disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against petitioner during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

9. Controlled Substances - Abstain From Use

Petitioner shall abstain completely from the personal use or possession of controlled substances as defined in the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act, dangerous drugs as defined by Business and Professions Code section 4022, and any drugs requiring a prescription. This prohibition does not apply to medications lawfully prescribed to petitioner by another practitioner for a bona fide illness or condition.

Within 15 calendar days of receiving any lawfully prescribed medications, petitioner shall notify the Board or its designee of the: issuing practitioner's name, address, and telephone number; medication name, strength, and quantity; and issuing pharmacy name, address, and telephone number.

If petitioner has a confirmed positive biological fluid test for any substance (whether or not legally prescribed) and has not reported the use to the Board or its designee, petitioner shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to immediately cease the practice of medicine. Petitioner shall not resume the practice of medicine until the final decision on an accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation is effective. An accusation and/or petition to revoke probation shall be filed by the Board within 30 days of the notification to cease practice. If the petitioner requests a hearing on the accusation and/or petition to revoke probation, the Board shall provide petitioner with a hearing within 30 days of the request, unless petitioner stipulates to a later hearing. If the case is heard by an Administrative Law Judge alone, he/she shall forward a Proposed Decision to the Board within 15 days of submission of the matter. Within 15 days of receipt by the Board of the Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision, the Board shall issue its Decision, unless good cause can be shown for the delay. If the case is heard by the Board, the Board shall issue its decision within 15 days of submission of the case, unless good cause can be shown for the delay. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, non-adoption of the proposed decision, request for reconsideration, remands and other interlocutory orders issued by the Board. The cessation of practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary time period.

If the Board does not file an accusation or petition to revoke probation within 30 days of the issuance of the notification to cease practice or does not provide petitioner with a hearing within 30 days of such a request, the notification of cease practice shall be dissolved.

10. Alcohol - Abstain from Use

Petitioner shall abstain completely from the use of products or beverages containing alcohol.

If petitioner has a confirmed positive biological fluid test for alcohol, petitioner shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to immediately cease the practice of medicine. Petitioner shall not resume the practice of medicine until the final decision on an

accusation and/or a petition to revoke probation is effective. An accusation and/or petition to revoke probation shall be filed by the Board within 30 days of the notification to cease practice. If petitioner requests a hearing on the accusation and/or petition to revoke probation, the Board shall provide petitioner with a hearing within 30 days of the request, unless petitioner stipulates to a later hearing. If the case is heard by an Administrative Law Judge alone, he/she shall forward a Proposed Decision to the Board within 15 days of submission of the matter. Within 15 days of receipt by the Board of the Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision, the Board shall issue its Decision, unless good cause can be shown for the delay. If the case is heard by the Board, the Board shall issue its decision within 15 days of submission of the case, unless good cause can be shown for the delay. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, non-adoption of the proposed decision, request for reconsideration, remands and other interlocutory orders issued by the Board. The cessation of practice shall not apply to the reduction of the probationary time period.

If the Board does not file an accusation or petition to revoke probation within 30 days of the issuance of the notification to cease practice or does not provide petitioner with a hearing within 30 days of such a request, the notification of cease practice shall be dissolved.

11. Education Course

Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, petitioner shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at petitioner's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of each course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test petitioner's knowledge of the course. Petitioner shall provide proof of attendance for 65 hours of CME of which 40 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.

12. Monitoring - Practice/Billing

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

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

disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan with the signed statement for approval by the Board or its designee.

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

If petitioner fails to obtain approval of a monitor within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, petitioner shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Petitioner shall cease the practice of medicine until a monitor is approved to provide monitoring responsibility.

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

If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, petitioner shall, within 5 calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee, for prior approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within 15 calendar days. If petitioner fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within 60 calendar days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, petitioner shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine; within three (3) calendar days after being so notified Petitioner shall cease the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and assumes monitoring responsibility.

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

13. Psychotherapy

Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval the name and qualifications of a California-licensed board certified psychiatrist or a licensed psychologist who has a doctoral degree in psychology and at least five years of postgraduate experience in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders. Upon approval, respondent shall undergo and continue psychotherapy treatment, including any modifications to the frequency of psychotherapy, until the Board or its designee deems that no further psychotherapy is necessary.

The psychotherapist shall consider any information provided by the Board or its designee and any other information the psychotherapist deems relevant and shall furnish a written evaluation report to the Board or its designee. Respondent shall cooperate in providing the

psychotherapist any information and documents that the psychotherapist may deem pertinent.

Respondent shall have the treating psychotherapist submit quarterly status reports to the Board or its designee. The Board or its designee may require respondent to undergo psychiatric evaluations by a Board-appointed board certified psychiatrist. If, prior to the completion of probation, respondent is found to be mentally unfit to resume the practice of medicine without restrictions, the Board shall retain continuing jurisdiction over respondent's license and the period of probation shall be extended until the Board determines that respondent is mentally fit to resume the practice of medicine without restrictions.

Respondent shall pay the cost of all psychotherapy and psychiatric evaluations.

14. Professionalism Program (Ethics)

Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

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

15. Solo Practice Prohibition

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

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

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

16. Notification

Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, petitioner shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to petitioner, at any other facility where petitioner engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to petitioner. Petitioner shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

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

17. Supervision of Physician Assistants and Advanced Practice Nurses

During probation, petitioner is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.

18. Obey All Laws

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

19. Quarterly Declarations

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

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

20. General Probation Requirements

Compliance with Probation Unit

Petitioner shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

Address Changes

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

Place of Practice

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

License Renewal

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

Travel or Residence Outside California

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

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

21. Interview with the Board or its Designee

Petitioner shall be available in person upon request for interviews either at petitioner's place of business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.

22. Non-practice While on Probation

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

considered as a period of non-practice.

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

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

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

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

23. Completion of Probation

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

24. Violation of Probation

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

25. License Surrender

Following the effective date of this Decision, if petitioner ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, petitioner may request to surrender his or her license. The Board reserves the right to evaluate petitioner's request and to exercise its discretion in determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, petitioner shall within 15 calendar days deliver petitioner's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its designee and petitioner shall no longer practice medicine. Petitioner will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. If petitioner re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

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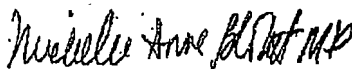
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26. **Probation Monitoring Costs**

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

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 pm on January 18, 2019.

IT IS SO ORDERED December 21, 2018.



MICHELLE ANNE BHOLAT, M.D.
VICE CHAIR
PANEL B