



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

NEWS

Protecting consumers by advancing high quality, safe, medical care.

**VOLUME 164
FIRST QUARTER 2023**

YOUR LICENSING QUESTIONS ANSWERED

*By Emmalee Ross, Public Information
Officer and MBC Licensing Program - p. 6*

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CONSUMER CORNER

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EDITOR'S SPOTLIGHT

Emmalee Ross
Designer & Editor in Chief

This edition of Medical Board News is brimming with important information for Medical Board of California (Board) licensees.

I worked with the Board's Licensing Program and chief of licensing to accumulate the most important information for licensees wishing to obtain their Postgraduate Training License or applying to transition to a Physician's and Surgeon's License. To get up to speed on this important topic, check out the article, ***What You Need to Know when Applying for a Postgraduate Training License or Transitioning to a Physician's and Surgeon's License.***

If you're in the midst of the complaint process, don't miss Part 2 of ***A Complaint is Filed Against You, What Happens Next?*** delving into the investigation stage and what is expected of licensees.

Lastly, the new year brought new legislation including Assembly Bill 852 which defines ***new exemptions for e-prescribing requirements***, including those who prescribe less than 100 prescriptions per calendar year.

Happy Spring!

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." – Lady Bird Johnson

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

NEWS

A Publication of the Medical Board of California

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Newsletter submissions are welcome, but all submissions become property of the Board and are subject to editing.

The Board's Mission

The mission of the Medical Board of California is to protect healthcare consumers through the proper licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons and certain allied healthcare professionals; and through the vigorous, objective enforcement of the Medical Practice Act, and to promote access to quality medical care through the Board's licensing and regulatory functions.

First Quarter 2023
**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**
**SPRING IS RIPE
FOR CHANGE**

With spring in the air, the Medical Board of California (Board) is hard at work on behalf of California consumers as this year is a Sunset review year for the Board.

Sunset review allows the Board to evaluate its recent consumer protection work and request that the Legislature approve changes we believe will help the Board better protect California healthcare consumers.

The Board outlined its legislative requests in its [2022 Sunset Report](#), and I look forward to working with the Legislature to ensure the Board has adequate financial resources, robust enforcement tools, and appropriate standards to allow us to advance our consumer protection mission. I would like to thank everyone who provided feedback and constructive suggestions to help the Board develop its legislative proposals that will improve the Board's licensing and enforcement functions.

I am pleased to announce the Board has a new roadmap that will guide its work during the next five years. Our 2023 Strategic Plan establishes various goals in the areas of licensing, enforcement, legislation and regulation, outreach, and Board administration. Together with our staff, the Board will work diligently on each of the goals outlined in the [Strategic Plan](#).

The Board also took another significant step towards a paperless licensing process. In early February 2023, the Board stopped accepting paper applications for postgraduate training licenses (PTL) and applications to transition from a PTL to a Physician's and Surgeon's License. The move to a paperless licensing process helps both applicants and the Board by increasing the efficiency of the review process, enhancing security, and reducing costs and impact to the environment. Read more in our article, [What You Need to Know when Applying for a Post Graduate Training License or Transitioning to a Physician's and Surgeon's License](#).

The Board has also empowered physicians to print out their own wallet license cards using the Board's [Wallet License Generator](#). This provides a significant cost savings for the Board and an instantaneous delivery of the wallet card once a license renewal has been processed.

In closing, we hope in the future you will attend and participate in our Quarterly Board meetings. Your participation and public comment at our meetings is paramount to helping us make important policy decisions. I invite you to read this edition's [Consumer Corner](#) about the opportunities to offer public comment at Board meetings.

Kristina D. Lawson



IMPORTANT LICENSING QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

*If you're applying for a Postgraduate
Training License or transitioning to a
Physician's and Surgeon's License.*



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN...

APPLYING FOR A POSTGRADUATE TRAINING LICENSE OR TRANSITIONING TO A PHYSICIAN'S AND SURGEON'S LICENSE

*By Emmalee Ross, Public Information Officer
& MBC Licensing Program*

The Medical Board of California (Board) wants to provide some important reminders to those applying for a Postgraduate Training License (PTL) or transitioning from a PTL to your Physician's and Surgeon's License (P&S).

POSTGRADUATE TRAINING LICENSURE

Medical school graduates who do not have credit for 12 (US/Canadian graduates) or 24 (International graduates) months of board-approved PGT and enroll in a California

ACGME-accredited postgraduate training (PGT) program must obtain a PTL within 180 days of their enrollment date.

To help ensure this deadline is met, **the Board strongly encourages you to apply as soon as you are accepted into your PGT program.** If you do not obtain your PTL within 180 days of enrollment, you will be required to cease practicing medicine and, based upon the policies of your PGT program, may be disenrolled.

IN THIS ARTICLE:

- *Postgraduate Training License*
- *Transitioning to a Physician's and Surgeon's License*
- *Application Checklists*
- *Paperless Application Process*
- *Applying through BreZze*
- *Third-Party Services*
- *Direct Online Certification Submission*
- *Application Status Updates*
- *Licensing Webinar*



New PTL applicants will be issued a PTL for up to 15 months (U.S. and Canadian medical school graduates) or 27 months (international medical school graduates). However, the law authorizes the Board to extend a PTL beyond 15 or 27 months if you remain enrolled in your PGT program and need additional training to obtain credit for 12 or 24 months of ACGME-accredited PGT to qualify for a P&S license.

For example, if a resident was issued a PTL for 15 months and took an extended leave of absence during their first year of training and had to make up this time, the Board could extend the PTL allowing the resident to obtain the required training credits needed to qualify for licensure.

If a resident is placed on probation or remediation, takes a leave of absence, or has any other program change that would affect their anticipated date to meet the requirements to obtain a P&S license, a Program Status Update/Change Form (Form PSU) is required from the program director within 30 days.

TRANSITIONING TO A PHYSICIAN'S AND SURGEON'S LICENSE

PTL holders should apply to transition to a P&S license six months prior to the expiration date of their PTL. This will help ensure sufficient time for the Board to review your application and for all supporting documents to be received prior to the expiration of the PTL.

Although the application may be submitted early, the P&S license will not be issued until you meet all licensure requirements. You may submit your Transition application online prior to receiving credit for 12 or 24 months of PGT, but all required documentation must be submitted (such as the PTA/B forms) prior to the license being issued.

To obtain a P&S license, you must pass all Steps of the US Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or pass another exam listed under [Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations \(CCR\) section 1328](#). Step 3 of the USMLE must be passed within four attempts. If you required more than four attempts to pass Step 3 of the USMLE, you must meet the requirements of Business and Professions Code (BPC) section [2135](#) or [2135.5](#) to be considered eligible for issuance of a P&S license ([BPC section 2177\(c\)\(2\)](#)).

IMPORTANT: APPLY TO TRANSITION TO A P&S LICENSE SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR PTL.

When scheduling to sit for the USMLE, the Board suggests selecting an appropriate examination date to ensure that the Board receives your exam score at least a month prior to your PTL expiring.

Please note, your PGT program must submit the [Certificate of Completion of ACGME/RCPSC/CFPC Postgraduate Training Form \(Form PTA-PTB\)](#) through the Board's [Direct Online Certification Submission](#) service, an acceptable [third-party service](#), or by mail. This form may be signed and submitted **up to 30 days prior** to the last day of any PGT period used to qualify for a P&S license.

A California P&S license must be obtained before your PTL expires, otherwise all clinical activities in California must cease until a P&S License is obtained – as practice is not permitted with an expired license.

It is the applicant's responsibility to submit their application and all required documents to the Board in a timely manner, including documents that must be provided directly from a third party, such as a medical school.

APPLICATION CHECKLISTS AVAILABLE

The Board provides an *Application for a Postgraduate Training License Information and Checklist* and an *Application for a Physician's and Surgeon's License Information and Checklist* detailing the minimum requirements, general information, third-party services, primary source documents, and application preparation expected by the Board. Using the checklist can help ensure qualified applicants receive their license by the appropriate deadline.



PAPERLESS APPLICATION PROCESS

Over the last few months, the Board transitioned to a paperless application process, which helps both applicants and the Board by increasing the efficiency of the review process, enhancing security, and reducing costs and impact to the environment.

As of February 1, 2023, the Board no longer accepts paper applications for those applying for PTLs or transitioning from a PTL to a P&S license. **Any paper-based applications received by the Board for a PTL or to transition to a P&S license will not be accepted or processed.** The Board will notify the applicant they must apply through BreEZe. If you are not able to submit an online application through BreEZe, please email Licensing.Questions@mbc.ca.gov with a brief explanation as to why you are not able to apply online.

If you have technical difficulties with the BreEZe system, you may **message the Board** or call the Consumer Information Unit at (800) 633-2322.



APPLYING THROUGH BREEZE

Learn how to apply through **BreEZe**, including a comprehensive guide to each step that must be completed and documents submitted:

- ***Applying for a PTL***
- ***Application to Transition to P&S License***

Please note: When completing the application, once you click on the Fees and Summary Report page, even if you have not paid, the system will no longer allow you to go back and add documents. If this occurs, and you still have documents to add to your application, email your assigned licensing analyst (if already assigned), or email licensing.questions@mbc.ca.gov with additional documents.



THIRD-PARTY SERVICES

The Board accepts many third-party services for completing the application process, you can find more information on our ***Third-Party Services webpage***.

The services include:

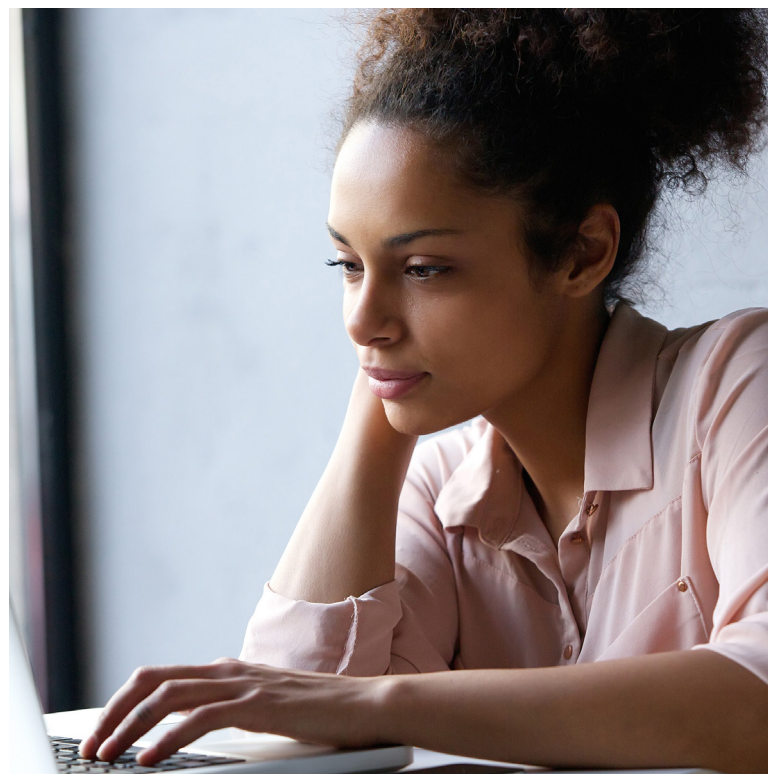
- Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS)
- Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials (EPIC)
- Electronic Notary Options
- Certified Electronic Diploma
- Medical School E-Transcripts
- Translation Services
- License Verifications

DIRECT ONLINE CERTIFICATION SUBMISSION

The Board's Direct Online Certification Submission (DOCS) is a secure, fast, and reliable online portal allowing medical schools and postgraduate training programs to submit certain primary-source licensing documents electronically to the Board on behalf of applicants. DOCS accepts verification forms, official transcripts, certified diplomas, letters of explanation, and more.

Documents submitted through DOCS do not require notarization or an institutional seal, and digital signatures are accepted in lieu of original signatures.

Learn more about DOCS and how your medical school or PGT program can register on our [DOCS webpage](#).



APPLICATION STATUS UPDATES

Due to high volume, the Board is unable to provide application status updates or confirm the receipt of documents. Documents submitted through the BreEZe system or DOCS portal are immediately received by the Board. If you wish to confirm receipt of a mailed document, please mail the document using a mail tracking service.

Please allow approximately 60-90 days for the initial review of an application. Once your application is reviewed, you will be notified by email of any deficiencies. In addition, please allow 10 days for review of all supporting documents received after the initial review has been conducted. All applications and supporting documents are reviewed in the date order received unless you qualify and have been approved for an [expedited review](#).

To check the status of your initial license application, regardless of whether the application was submitted by mail or through BreEZe, please log into your [BreEZe account](#).

If you have further questions, please contact us at 800-633-2322 or webmaster@mbc.ca.gov.

Also, check out the most recent [webinar](#) regarding PTL and P&S Licenses by the Board's Chief of Licensing, Marina O'Connor.



MBC'S QUARTERLY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS THE PUBLIC VOICE

*By Emmalee Ross,
Public Information Officer*

As a healthcare consumer, you may wonder why you'd be interested in the Medical Board of California's (Board) Quarterly Board and Committee meetings. However, the public voice is often the spark that ignites discussion, action, and change.

Change doesn't happen overnight, and it's typically not a linear progression, but it's made possible because of the questions, experiences, and hardships the public shares with the Board.

Multiple times a year, Board members meet to discuss and make decisions about the Board's consumer protection work. During those meetings, the Board hears from staff, the public, and other stakeholders, all of whom are integrally important for the function and work of the Board. The meetings are open to the public, except when specifically noted otherwise – for example, when the Board meets in closed session – in accordance with the [Open Meeting Act](#).

Meetings are typically held in-person (and livestreamed on the Board's website), or via [WebEx](#). The Board also [archives](#) all meeting videos within two weeks of the meeting's conclusion on its [YouTube channel](#).

What to Expect at a Quarterly Board and Committee Meeting:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Typically on the first day of the meeting, after it has been called to order by the Board president, the Board invites public comment on items that are not already on the agenda.

This means, if you have a grievance or want to alert the Board to a topic affecting the Board or healthcare consumers you believe needs discussion – share it.

The Board typically allows three minutes per public commenter, however, meetings vary and there may be other time limitations.

Throughout the meeting, the public also has the opportunity to speak on the agenda item topics.

Additionally, the public may submit written comments regarding items on the agenda,

as well as items not on the agenda, to be provided to Board members prior to the meeting. Instructions on submitting written comments will be provided on the published agenda for each public meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Both the Board's president and executive director give brief updates about their activities since the previous meeting. The Board president might detail items such as Board member updates, key legislative matters, public concerns, and stakeholder involvement. While the Board's executive director discusses important happenings at the Board – staffing, funding, internal and external stakeholder meetings and related updates.





PRESENTATIONS

Either from public comment recommendations or Board member recommendations, the Board invites guest speakers on various topics that are informative for all in attendance – the public, staff, and Board members. Topics have included chronic and intractable pain treatment, California maternal mortality and morbidity, autism research, naturopathic physicians, overcoming health inequities in the LGBTQ+ community, and more.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

When applicable, the Board's chief of legislation and public affairs discusses possible action the Board members may take on new and pending legislation and regulations affecting the Board, its licensees, and/or its consumers. After giving a brief overview of each bill or regulation, the Board members are given time to ask questions and discuss the intricacies of each item. The public is also allotted time to comment on proposed legislation and regulations before the Board members take a formal position on the proposals.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

When the president or meeting chair calls for future agenda items (typically toward the end of the meeting), Board members and the public are invited to suggest discussion topics and presentations they'd like to see put on a future agenda.

The next Quarterly Board Meeting is scheduled for May 18-19, 2023. The agenda and location will be posted to the [Board's Meetings webpage](#) at least 10 days prior to the meeting if not earlier. Previous meetings and materials are posted there as well. To be alerted when Board meeting materials are distributed, please sign up for our [Subscriber Alerts](#), selecting the "Board and Committee Meetings" box.

LINKS TO OUR WEBSITE

[Update your address of record or email address](#)

[Update your physician survey](#)

[Sign up for email subscriber alerts](#)

Contact us:

webmaster@mbc.ca.gov

THE BOARD'S MISSION

The mission of the Medical Board of California is to protect healthcare consumers and prevent harm through the proper licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons and certain allied health care professionals and through the vigorous, objective enforcement of the Medical Practice Act, and to promote access to quality medical care through the Board's licensing, policy, and regulatory functions.

NEED A SPEAKER?

If you would like a speaker from the Medical Board of California, please contact Public Affairs Manager [Carlos Villatoro](#).

NEWSLETTER SURVEY

Please take a moment to share your thoughts about the Board's newsletter. Do you have a particular section that you like, or an idea on how to improve our publication? Click the link below to take the survey.

[Medical Board of California News Survey](#)

IMPORTANT LAW CHANGES TO E-PRESCRIBING REQUIREMENTS

By **Emmalee Ross**
Public Information Officer

Assembly Bill (AB) 852 **brought changes to e-prescribing requirements** that took effect January 1, 2023. The law updated specific exemptions to e-prescribing requirements for physicians who:

1. Prescribe 100 or less prescriptions per calendar year.
2. Practice in an area of an emergency or disaster declared by a federal, state, or local government.
3. Are unable to issue electronic data transmission prescriptions due to circumstances beyond their control.

Other changes to e-prescribing requirements include:

1. Provides authority for pharmacies, pharmacists, and authorized practitioners to decline to dispense or furnish an electronic prescription submitted via software that does not meet specified requirements.
2. Creates additional exemptions from electronic prescriptions as specified.
3. Requires a prescriber exempt from electronic prescribing to register annually with the Board and state they meet one or more of the specified criteria.
4. Exempts the prescription transfer requirements under specified conditions.

The **California State Board of Pharmacy** (BOP) created an **E-Prescribing Exemption Request Form** where Medical Board of California licensees and other eligible healthcare practitioners must register if utilizing the exemptions, along with a searchable **Online Confirmation Registry** confirming healthcare practitioners are registered for an exemption with the BOP.

For more information, visit the Board's **E-Prescription Requirements webpage**.



SAN DIEGO FAMILIES FIND LOCAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEW, FREE, RESOURCE FINDER AND WEBSITE

*By the American
Academy of Pediatrics,
California Chapter 3*



***Editor's Note:** The provided information is specifically for families in San Diego and Imperial Counties. To find local resources at your American Academy of Pediatrics chapter, please visit **California Chapter 1** (Northern and Central California), or **California Chapter 2** (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside).*



Local nonprofit organizations joined forces to launch the Family Support Connection, a free website and service-finder tool for San Diego families.

Family Support Connection is a collaborative effort between 13 organizations (listed below) for pregnant and parenting families in San Diego to be connected to the program that best fits them. Families can use the online, virtual tool to browse for the program and resources that pertain to them most.

How it works:

- Families visit the website:
<https://familysupportconnection.org>.
- Click on the “Get Connected” button.
- Answer a few, short questions.
- Instantly receive a list of programs and organizations ready to support them.

“We all need help from time-to-time and becoming a parent or raising young children is one of those times,” said Kim Flowers, Neighborhood House Association Senior Director of Family Support Services. “Organizations that support expectant families and those with young children are a key part of the fabric of our community. We want people to know how to find us and believe that partnering with other family support organizations helps us to collectively ensure that San Diego’s children and families thrive.”

Organizations participating in Family Support Connection:

- ***Black Infant Health***
- ***Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo***
- ***Easter Seals Southern California***
- ***Episcopal Community Services***
- ***First 5 First Steps – a program of AAP-CA3***
- ***Global Communities***
- ***Maternal Child Health***
- ***MAAC***
- ***Neighborhood House Association***
- ***New Parent Support Program***
- ***Nurse Family Partnership***
- ***San Diego Breastfeeding Center Foundation***
- ***Vista Hill***

“More than a third of new parents globally “report feeling isolated, lonely, and or unprepared after the birth of a new baby,” said Lisa Bain, Director of Global Communities’ Healthy Start program. “We want new parents to know there is a rich community of resources in San Diego dedicated to supporting new and expecting parents.”

All families in San Diego are encouraged to utilize Family Support Connection’s ***free, resource finder and website.***

ABOUT FAMILY SUPPORT CONNECTION

Family Support Connection is a collaboration of nonprofit organizations within San Diego that provide family support services coming together to offer pregnant and parenting families one location to access the programs most pertinent to them. The programs within the Family Support Connection work to strengthen bonds between parents and their children and have a long history of working together to keep family’s needs first. Visit <https://familysupportconnection.org> for more information.

ABOUT AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 3

The ***American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3 (AAP-CA3)*** is dedicated to achieving physical, mental health and social well-being for every infant, child and adolescent in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Founded in 1961, AAP-CA3 is one of four American Academy of Pediatrics chapters in California.



EXPERT REVIEWERS NEEDED



If you live and have a full-time active practice in California, apply to be an Expert Reviewer for MBC.

HISTORY

The Medical Board of California (Board) established its Expert Reviewer Program in July 1994 as an impartial and professional means to support its investigation and enforcement functions. Expert Reviewers (Experts) assist the Board by providing reviews and opinions on board cases and conducting medical and psychiatric evaluations.

REQUIREMENTS

Actively practicing physicians from all other specialties not listed are also welcome to apply and participate in the program. Physicians must be board certified, have been practicing their specialty for a minimum of three years after board certification, have no current complaints, no prior discipline, and must be willing and available to testify in court.

MIDWIVES

The Board also needs midwife expert reviewers throughout the state of California. Licensed midwives must have an active midwifery practice for the past two years, have no current complaints, no prior discipline, and must be willing and available to testify in court.

CONTACT

For more information regarding compensation and how to apply, contact us at (916) 561-8216, visit our [website](#), or e-mail the Board's Expert Program at MBCMedicalExpertProgram@mbc.ca.gov.

The Board is looking for experts in the following specialties:

- Addiction Medicine with added certification in Family or Internal or Psychiatry
- Cardiology
- Clinical Genetics
- Colon/Rectal Surgery
- Dermatology
- Family Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- Hematology
- Interventional Cardiology
- Midwife Reviewer
- Neurological Surgery
- Neurology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (with added expertise in Gynecologic Oncology)
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Pediatric Endocrinology
- Pathology (preferably from the following counties: Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and Ventura)
- Pain Medicine
- Pediatric Gastroenterology
- Pediatric Surgery
- Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
- Pediatric Critical Care
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Plastic Surgery
- Psychiatry (Forensic and Addiction)
- Radiation Oncology
- Surgery (General and Endocrine Surgery)
- Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery
- Urology (General and Gender Reassignment)
- Vascular Surgery

YOU ASKED FOR IT, QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE WEB

By Alexandria Schembra, Public Information Analyst

Q I renewed my license but never received the plastic wallet card. Does the Board still send those out?

A The Board no longer mails the plastic wallet license. Any licensee with a “Current” license status may generate a wallet license at their convenience by accessing the [Wallet License Generator](#).

The wallet license includes a license specific QR Code that allows interested parties to view the DCA Search License Profile page with real-time, license status information from any QR Code capable device and is generated as an electronic PDF file. There is no fee for this service.



Q I need to change my address of record. How do I do that?

A An address or email change must be done online via [BreEZe](#). You will need to sign into your account and follow the instructions to submit an address/email change.

If you have previously registered for BreEZe, addresses of record can be changed online, please review the Board’s [Step-by-Step User Guide for Physicians to Complete Change of Address Online](#). If you do not already have a BreEZe account, please visit the Board’s [BreEZe Resources Center webpage](#).

NOTE: If you are renewing at the same time you want to change an address/email, please be sure to change your address/email before renewing your license. You can update your address/email online in the BreEZe system prior to completing the renewal process online.





A COMPLAINT IS FILED AGAINST YOU, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

PART TWO

*By Emmalee Ross,
Public Information Officer*

*Editor's Note: "A Complaint is Filed Against You, What Happens Next?" (Part One of Three) was published in our **Fourth Quarter 2023 newsletter edition** providing first steps and guidance for physicians navigating the complaint process. In Part Two, we dive further into the investigation stage. Stay tuned for our final piece next edition.*

A complaint was filed against you, and after providing medical records and testimony (if applicable) to the Medical Board of California (Board), the complaint was referred to the Division of Investigation, Health Quality Investigation Unit (HQIU) within the Department of Consumer Affairs.

This means after initial review of the complaint, further investigation is needed to determine if a violation of the Medical Practice Act occurred. Here's what happens next.

THE INVESTIGATION STAGE

A thorough and often lengthy investigation will take place, consistent with due process requirements in the law, to determine whether the Board can prove that a violation occurred by “clear and convincing evidence.”

HQIU investigators are sworn peace officers, based in 13 field offices across California, and have authority to investigate possible violations of the law.

During this time, investigators may obtain further medical records, and additional information and evidence; interview the complainant, patient, witnesses, and the subject physician; retain medical experts to review the case; draft and serve investigational subpoenas, execute search warrants; and conduct undercover operations.

Once this process has begun, an investigator will contact you, the subject physician, for an interview discussing the details of the complaint. You may bring a legal representative for the interview. The investigator, a medical expert, and a deputy attorney general may be in attendance. If you have not yet requested a summary of the complaint, you may do so pursuant to ***Business and Professions Code 800(c)***.

After the evidence is collected, some cases (specifically quality-of-care issues), are reviewed by an expert reviewer – contracted by the Board – to determine if there was departure from the standard of care, or if there is evidence of a violation of the Medical Practice Act. The expert reviewer must have the requisite education, training, and experience to be able to opine on whether the subject physician committed a simple or an extreme departure from the standard of care and they must be willing to testify at the administrative hearing if the case does not settle.

Following the investigation, if allegations cannot be proven or disciplinary action is not warranted, your case will be closed and retained for one year. If the investigation proved to have some merit, but sufficient evidence was not found, your case will be closed and retained for five years. In contrast, if the investigation reveals that disciplinary action may be appropriate, the investigation is forwarded to the state Attorney General’s Office (AGO), Health Quality Enforcement Section for review.

If the AGO agrees to prosecute the case, they will prepare an accusation for the Board to file with the Office of Administrative Hearings. Up to this point, the complaint and investigation are exempt from public disclosure, but once an accusation is filed, it is publicly available and posted on your licensee profile.

Note: Your case may be referred to a local district attorney’s office for criminal prosecution, or back to the Board for other disciplinary, or non-disciplinary action. For example, if minor violations are found, your case may result in administrative citation and fine rather than referral to the AGO for formal accusation and disciplinary action. Citations that are not withdrawn or dismissed are publicly available and posted on your licensee profile.

Next edition, we’ll conclude with Part Three of, “A Complaint is Filed Against You, What Happens Next?” detailing the accusation, the administrative hearing, and the appeal process.

If you have concerns or questions about a complaint filed against you, or the investigation stage, please contact the Board at 800-633-2322, or email us at webmaster@mbc.ca.gov.



WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD NOTICE

By The Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Workers' Compensation

The Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Workers' Compensation wants to inform Medical Board of California licensees of the seriousness of workers' compensation fraud, which costs California billions of dollars each year.

Medical provider fraud includes:

- Billing fraud.
- Employing individuals to solicit new patients.
- Unnecessary treatment or self-interested referrals.
- Failing to report a work injury.

For more information, please see the Department of Industrial Relations' ***Workers' Compensation Fraud Notice***.

For questions about workers' compensation fraud, or to report workers' compensation fraud, please call the Department of Insurance's fraud hotline at 800-927-4357. You can also access the ***Fraud Division's website*** for more information and the Fraud Division office nearest to you.

WHAT PHYSICIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NEW APPLICATION FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS



By the California Board of Registered Nursing

Effective January 1, 2023, **Assembly Bill (AB) 890 (Wood, Chapter 265, Statutes of 2020)** created two new categories of Nurse Practitioners (NP) that can function within a defined scope of practice without standardized procedures, commonly known as a 103 NP and 104 NP.

The California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) has released a new 103 NP application as part of its implementation of AB 890. BRN would like to notify physicians and surgeons on what to expect now that the 103 NP application is available, and NPs will begin receiving this new certification.

To be certified as a 103 NP, an NP must apply for certification with BRN as the new authority under AB 890 is not automatically granted to NPs in California. To apply, the applicant must complete a transition to practice in California, which is 4,600 hours

of additional clinical experience and mentorship in direct patient care in the role of their National Certification and category listed in **16 CCR Section 1481(a)**. This requirement is intended to prepare an NP to practice independently.

As part of the application, the NP will be asked to provide information about their transition to practice experience along with information about the physician and surgeon that oversaw and provided mentorship who can attest, under penalty of perjury, that the experience occurred. The attestor must be competent in the same specialty area and cannot have a familial or financial relationship with the applicant.

BRN will send an email to the physician and surgeon listed on the NP's application requesting attestation to the applicant's completion of the transition to practice requirement. The email will

contain a link to a secure web portal where the transition to practice experience entered by the NP will be listed. The physician and surgeon may choose to attest to all the experience, part of the experience, or none of the experience.

Upon receiving 103 NP certification from BRN, a 103 NP will be able to work without standardized procedures, in a group setting, with at least one physician and surgeon, within the population focus of their National Certification.

For questions about the 103 NP application or the attestation portal, please contact the BRN's Licensing Division at: brn.licensing@dca.ca.gov.

For questions about the 103 NP scope of practice, please contact BRN's Nursing Education Consultants at: nec.brn@dca.ca.gov.

UPDATE ON THE DECREASE IN CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION SCREENING DUE TO COVID-19

Note: Important changes in the blood lead reference value; and filter paper lead testing is not an acceptable method in California.

By the California Department of Public Health

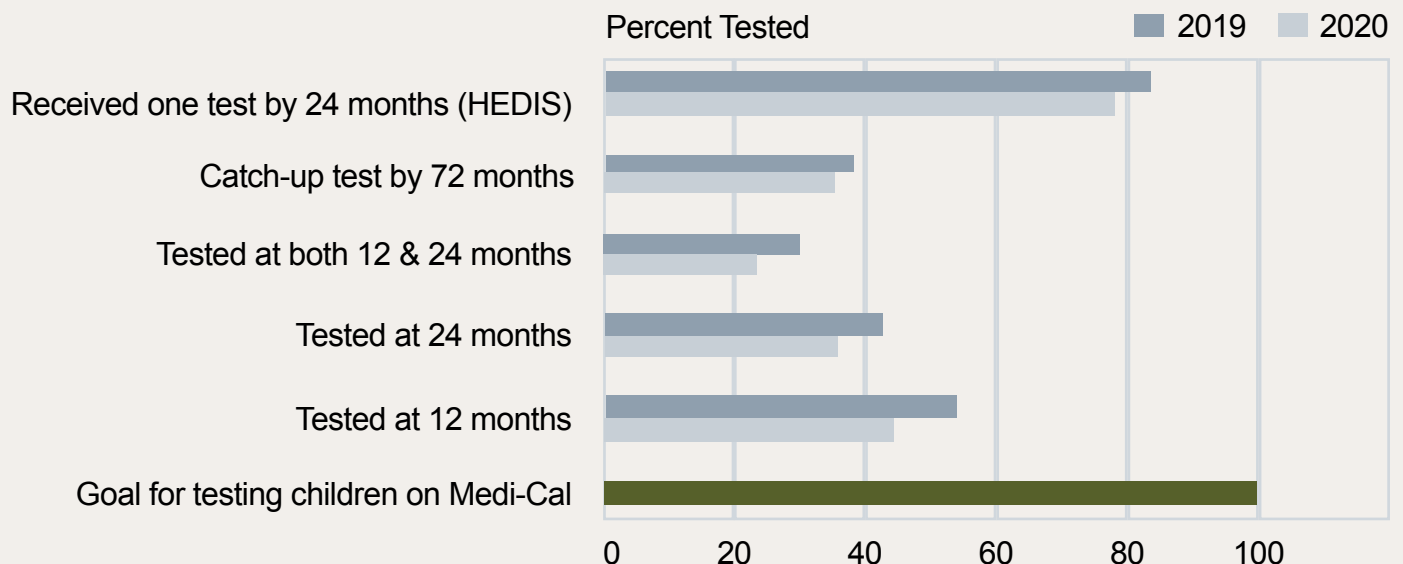
IN CALIFORNIA, children who are Medi-Cal recipients, or in a publicly funded program for low-income children, are mandated to undergo blood lead screening at 12 and 24 months old.

The chart below shows the gaps in childhood screening between 2019 and 2020. Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) is a federal measure of childhood lead screening that requires one capillary or venous blood lead test by the age of 24 months.

Updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Blood Lead Reference Level

Late 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced a change in its blood lead reference value (BLRV) from ≥ 5 mcg/dL to ≥ 3.5 mcg/dL. The BLRV is a population-based measurement indicating that 2.5 percent of U.S. children one to five years old have blood lead levels (BLLs) of ≥ 3.5 mcg/dL. It is not a health-based standard or a toxicity threshold.

PERCENT OF MEDI-CAL CHILDREN AGE < SIX YEARS OLD WHO RECEIVED SCREENING TESTS IN 2019 AND 2020



Recommended Actions Based on Blood Lead Level

For BLLs ≥ 3.5 mcg/dL, the CDC recommends providers:

- Obtain a confirmatory venous sample for capillary results ≥ 3.5 mcg/dL.
- For children with venous BLLs ≥ 3.5 mcg/dL, provide:
 - Blood lead monitoring at recommended intervals.
 - Follow-up based on BLL.

Update on Blood Lead Testing Methodology For Pediatric Screening in California

Filter paper lead testing is not an acceptable method in California. There are multiple potential issues including:

- Possible lead contamination during paper production.
- Possible lead contamination during the collection and drying of the blood spot on the filter paper.
- Unequal blood distribution which can result in false positives or false negatives when the paper is punched for analysis.

These issues affect test result validity and become of greater significance with the lowering of the BLRV. If you are currently using filter paper testing for blood lead tests, please discontinue its use. If you have used filter paper in the past, repeat the blood lead testing.

A filter paper result of < 3.5 mcg/dL can be followed with another screening using EITHER capillary blood and an FDA-approved Point of Care testing device OR capillary or venous blood sent to a lab.

If the filter paper result is ≥ 3.5 mcg/dL, repeat with a venous test and send the blood sample to a reference lab that runs inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) or graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry (GFAAS).

Updated Materials Available From the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch

- *Ayurvedic Medications Information for Providers and Patients*
- *Mission Unleaded: How to Test Children For Lead With Maximum Accuracy*
- *Steps for Collecting Fingerstick Blood Samples in Micro-Vials for Lead Testing*
- *Lead Service Line Replacement*

Sources

- *2020 Preventive Services Report Addendum*
- *2021 Preventive Services Report*
- *LeadCare® Expanded Recall (October 2021) Questions & Answers*
- *A Critical Review of the Analysis of Dried Blood Spots for Characterizing Human Exposure to Inorganic Targets Using Methods Based on Analytical Atomic Spectrometry*



BECOME AN MBC MEDICAL CONSULTANT WE NEED YOU!

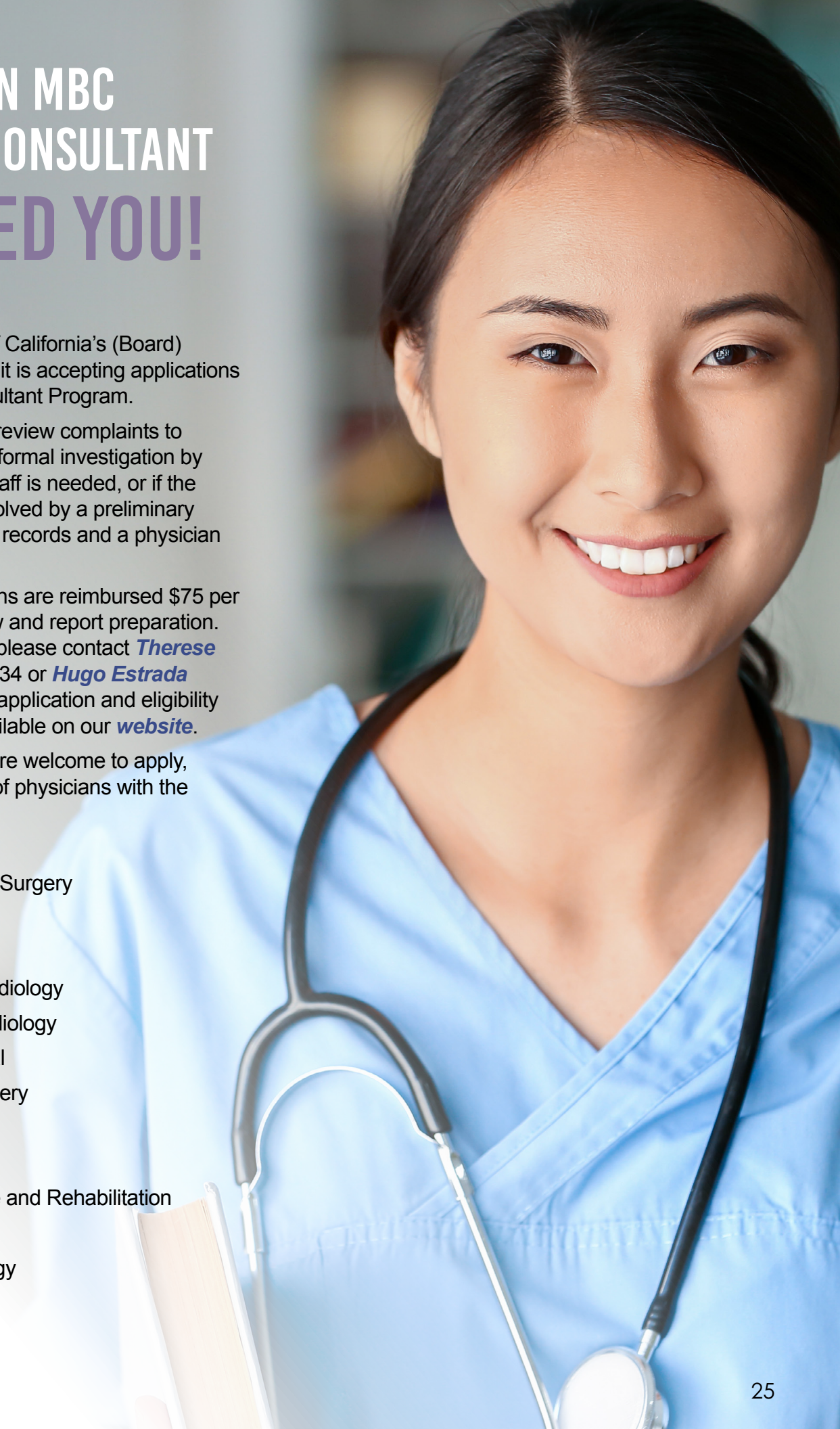
The Medical Board of California's (Board) Central Complaint Unit is accepting applications for the Medical Consultant Program.

Medical Consultants review complaints to determine whether a formal investigation by Board investigative staff is needed, or if the complaint can be resolved by a preliminary review of the medical records and a physician narrative statement.

Participating physicians are reimbursed \$75 per hour for record review and report preparation. If you are interested, please contact **Therese Kelly** at (916) 263-2434 or **Hugo Estrada** (916) 263-2463. The application and eligibility requirements are available on our [website](#).

While all specialties are welcome to apply, the Board is in need of physicians with the specialties below:

- Cardiac Surgery
- Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Dermatology
- Gynecology
- Interventional Cardiology
- Interventional Radiology
- Neonatal/Perinatal
- Neurological Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pain Medicine
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Radiation Oncology
- Thoracic Surgery
- Vascular Surgery



ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

AUGUST 1, 2022 – OCTOBER 31, 2022



Explanation of Disciplinary Language and Actions

“Effective date of decision” — Example: “March 14, 2020” at the bottom of the summary means the date the disciplinary decision goes into operation.

“Gross negligence” — An extreme deviation or departure from the standard of care.

“Incompetence” — Lack of knowledge or skills in discharging professional obligations.

“Judicial review pending” — The disciplinary decision is being challenged through the court system, i.e., Superior Court, Court of Appeal, or State Supreme Court. The discipline is currently in effect.

“Probationary License” — A conditional license issued to an applicant with probationary terms and conditions. This is done when cause exists to deny the license application, but limitations can be put in place to protect the public.

“Public Letter of Reprimand” — A lesser form of discipline that can be negotiated after or in lieu of the filing of formal charges. The reprimand may include educational and clinical training requirements.

“Revoked” — The right to practice is ended due to disciplinary action. The license is invalidated, voided, annulled, or rescinded.

“Revoked, stayed, 5 years' probation with terms and conditions, including 60 days suspension” — “Stayed” means the revocation is postponed. Professional practice may continue so long as the licensee complies with specified probationary terms and conditions which, in this example, includes 60 days of actual suspension from practice. Violation of any term of probation may result in the revocation that was postponed.

“Stipulated Decision or Settlement” — A form of plea bargaining. The case is formally negotiated and settled prior to hearing.

“Surrender” — To resolve a disciplinary action, the licensee has given up his or her license — subject to acceptance by the Board.

“Suspension from practice” — The licensee is prohibited from practicing for a specific period of time.

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

ABEDI, BABAK, M.D. (A 95902), BEVERLY HILLS, CA

Reinstated, revoked, stayed, and placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol; submitting to biological fluid testing; completing an education course; submitting to a psychiatric evaluation; attending psychotherapy; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. September 29, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

AHMED, TARIQ (C 137575), KIRKLAND, WA

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. September 20, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

AKANNO, JONATHAN EMEKA, M.D. (A 61907), BAKERSFIELD, CA

Admitted to deviating from the standard of care and treatment for five patients and failed to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to those same patients. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. September 29, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

ARAFILES, JR., ANGEL V. (C 43233), RIVERSIDE, CA

Convicted and required to register as a sex offender. Revoked. August 15, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

AZIZ, DOUGLAS CAMERON (G 62592), MANHATTAN BEACH, CA

No admissions but charged with failure to comply with a Board-ordered examination and unprofessional conduct. Surrender of License. September 14, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

BANDYAN, KARL (A 81272), VAN NUYS, CA

Unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. September 22, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

BABAALI, HOSSEIN, M.D. (G 86162), SANTA MONICA, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, incompetence, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and excessive prescribing of controlled substances in the care and treatment of two patients; repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of three patients; prescribing to addicts; and prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; notifying patients of probation status; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$7,500.00. September 29, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BARKER, GARY R. (G 46937),
LOMA LINDA, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Surrender of License. September 14, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BARNA, MICHAEL PATRICK (G 87366),
ARCADIA, MI**

Disciplined by Michigan for a felony conviction. Revoked. October 24, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BARNETT, MICHAEL STANLEY, M.D.
(G 35769), LINDSAY, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to adequately document complete mental status exams and by providing courtesy refills for an inappropriate time/frequency. October 21, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BESLEY, JR., ELLIS NORMAN, M.D.
(A 41548), LOS ANGELES, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course and a clinical competence assessment program; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,795.00. September 30, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

BEITEL, BRIAN GLENN QUIROGA, M.D. (A 65151), REDLANDS, CA

Committed acts of gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing

a clinical competence assessment program. October 20, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BERNHOF, ROBIN ALVIN, M.D. (G 34278),
OJAI, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients, and general unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from issuing, renewing, or extending any medical vaccine exemptions; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,247.50. September 30, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BEYRER, KATHRYN ELIZABETH, M.D.
(G 82334), SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct, gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, prescribing without an appropriate prior examination or indication, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical competence assessment program; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,500.00. October 3, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BIANCHINI, ERIC SCOTT, M.D. (G 70838),
SAN DIEGO, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one

patient. Physician must complete an education course; a clinical competence assessment program; and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$17,920.00. Public Reprimand. October 3, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

BLAIR, THOMAS L (G 45575), ORANGE, CA
Committed acts of using drugs and/or alcohol in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public; convicted of driving under the influence of a drug or drugs; obtained/procured prescription for controlled substances by fraud/deceit; dishonest or corrupt acts; has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely; and failed to comply with a request for medical records. Revoked. September 21, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

BOUTROS, ADEL A, M.D. (A 47792), LAKE FOREST, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course; and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$982.50. Public Reprimand. October 3, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

BOWERMAN, GREGORY PAUL, M.D. (G 49911), TURLOCK, CA
No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education course and a medical record keeping course, and pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,612.50. Public Reprimand. September 30, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

BROAD, WILLIAM GOWING, M.D. (G 67157), LOS GATOS, CA
No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct, gross negligence, repeated negligent

acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients; prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication; and excessively prescribing controlled substances to one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,860.00. October 3, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

BROOKS, DAVID (G 11503), BLYTHE, CA
No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of two patients. Surrender of License. September 1, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

BRYAN, II, WASHINGTON G.B. (A 61799), LOS ANGELES, CA
Convicted of twenty-nine felony counts of structuring currency transactions and committed dishonest or corrupt acts and unprofessional conduct. Revoked. October 15, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

BUCHBINDER, MAURICE (A 38176), LA JOLLA, CA
No admissions but charged with failure to comply with a Board-ordered examination and having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. September 14, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

BUFFMAN, BARRY RAY, M.D. (G 82000), SANTA CLARITA, CA
Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records. Physician must complete a professional

boundaries program and a professionalism program (ethics course). October 21, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**BUTTS, MATTHEW JOHN (C 150121),
BROOKINGS, OR**

Committed acts of using drugs and/or alcohol in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public; practiced under the influence of alcohol; and dishonest or corrupt acts. Revoked. October 3, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**CACERESTORRES, ALVARO, M.D. (G 37733),
DELANO, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient; and repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing any controlled substances except for those drugs listed in Schedules IV and V, and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$10,000.00. October 13, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**CARR, KAYLENE RENEE, M.D. (A 124094),
SAN BERNARDINO, CA**

Failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$1,500.00. Public Reprimand. October 17, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**CASTILLO-ARMAS, EDGAR, M.D. (A 40267),
FRESNO, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients. Physician must complete an education course, a medical record keeping course, and a prescribing practices course, and pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$5,708.75. Public Reprimand. September 16, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**CHANG, DAVID W, M.D. (G 74257),
LOS GATOS, CA**

No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct, gross negligence, and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient; and failing to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a medical record keeping course; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. September 16, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

CHU, QUE ANH (A 43191), MILPITAS, CA

Admitted to gross negligence, repeated negligence, incompetence, and dishonest or corrupt acts. Surrender of License. October 4, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**COBLE, TERRI CHARISSE (G 77555),
CREVE COEUR, MO**

Admitted to exceeding two years of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California. Surrender of License. September 20, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**COHEN, LAWRENCE JEFFREY, M.D.
(G 20618), LOS ANGELES, CA**

Public Letter of Reprimand issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2233 for self-prescribing controlled substances. Physician

must complete a prescribing practices course and a professionalism program (ethics course). October 25, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

COLE, MATTHEW DAVID, M.D. (A 98152), NEWPORT BEACH, CA

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient; and failed to comply with the terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to obey all laws. Revoked, stayed, and placed on one additional year of probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,192.50. September 16, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

COMBS, SARAH ASH, M.D. (A 125860), SAN DIEGO, CA

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education course and pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$7,887.50. Public Reprimand. October 14, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

CREIGHTON, NATASHA KELLY, M.D. (A 111863), RANCHO MIRAGE, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and prescribing without appropriate prior examinations in the care and treatment of three patients; failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient; and unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but are not limited to, cannot order, prescribe, dispense, administer, furnish, or possess any controlled substances until the

completion of a prescribing practices course; shall not issue an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$6,355.00. September 30, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

CUNANAN, FRANCIS DIZON, M.D. (A 81356), PORTERVILLE, CA

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an education Course. Public Reprimand. September 29, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

D'AMBROSIO, FRANCIS GERARD, M.D. (G 73590), MALIBU, CA

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of multiple patients; prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication; prescribing over the internet without an appropriate prior examination or indication; and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to a patient or a patient's primary caregiver for the possession or cultivation of marijuana for the personal medical purposes of the patient; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendations or

approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. September 16, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**DECASTRO, MARLON CHENG, M.D.
(C 53594), SANTA ROSA, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a prescribing practices course. Public Reprimand. October 14, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**DHALIWAL, SIMMI P, M.D. (A 63694),
POMONA, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical competence assessment program; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,115.00. September 28, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**DISBROW, ERIC COLBURN, M.D. (G 21038),
ATWATER, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Public Reprimand. October 14, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**DOAN, TUAN AHN, M.D. (G 77825),
ROCKLIN, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate records, general

unprofessional conduct, and incompetence in the care and treatment of multiple patients; and failed to comply with terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to obey all laws, violating the terms of his probation, and failing to refrain from engaging in the solo practice of medicine. Revoked, stayed, and placed on two years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$23,987.50 (reduced to \$11,993.75 if paid in full not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation). September 23, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**DOBSON, CHRISTOPHER ROBERT, M.D.
(A 138370), SAN DIEGO, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, violating one or more statutes or regulations regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances, failing to attend and participate in an interview with the Board, unprofessional conduct, and violating the Medical Practice Act. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances; abstaining from the use of alcohol; submitting to biological fluid testing; completing an education course and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$1,430.00. August 17, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**DOBKIN, WILLIAM ROSS, M.D. (G 42153),
NEWPORT BEACH, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and an ethics

course; prohibited from supervising physician assistants; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$14,475.00. September 16, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**DORIO, EUGENE RALPH, M.D. (A 41829),
VALENCIA, CA**

No admissions but charged with unprofessional conduct. Physician must complete a professionalism program (ethics course) and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$1,500.00. Public Reprimand. September 30, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**EMORY, WARDEN HAMLIN, M.D. (C 31807),
LOS ANGELES, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing Schedule II controlled substances and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed, and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,365.00. September 30, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**FISCHER, ROBERT FRANKLIN (C 36244),
SANTA BARBARA, CA**

Admitted to having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License.

August 4, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**FURNESS, GARY NEAL, M.D. (A 42216),
SANTA ROSA, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course and an ethics course. September 16, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**GERAYLI, AFSHIN S, M.D. (G 80098),
IRVINE, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course, and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$11,620.00. Public Reprimand. September 12, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**GHITEA, OLIVER (A 62680),
LAKE OSWEGO, OR**

No admissions but charged with having limitations imposed by Oregon for unprofessional or dishonorable conduct. Surrender of License. August 4, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**GIACOMINI, JOHN CLARENCE (C 37952),
ATHERTON, CA**

Convicted and required to register as a sex offender. Revoked. August 3, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**GILSANZ, VICENTE (A 33800),
LOS ANGELES, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records,

dishonest or corrupt acts, and knowingly making or signing a document related to the practice of medicine that falsely represented an existence of a statement of facts. Surrender of License. September 14, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

GIUFFRIDA, MICHAEL ALEXANDER, M.D. (G 89167), SANTA BARBARA, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from utilizing Vaser technology while performing liposuction procedures; completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$20,000.00. August 26, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

GOODMAN, DANIEL MARC, M.D. (G 63650), REDDING, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients; and unprofessional conduct related to making a public communication containing a false, misleading, or deceptive statement. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement, in the amount of \$5,462.50. August 26, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

GREWAL, RANJIT SINGH (A 38510), TORRANCE, CA

No admissions but charged with incompetence, gross negligence, repeated negligent acts,

and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Surrender of License. August 19, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

GROSS, HOWARD MICHAEL, M.D. (G 61854), SANTA BARBARA, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a clinical competence assessment program, a medical record keeping course, and an education course, and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$3,461.25. Public Reprimand. August 26, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

GRYCZYNSKI, GABRIELA (A 140661), SALINAS, CA

No admissions but charged with having a condition affecting her ability to practice medicine safely; using drugs and/or alcohol in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to herself, another person, or to the public; and practicing under the influence of alcohol. Surrender of License. August 3, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

HALLER, DAVID LEE (G 80488), INGLEWOOD, CA

Convicted and required to register as a sex offender. Revoked. October 14, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

HANSEN, ROBERT PAUL, M.D. (G 53037), CLOVIS, CA

No admissions but charged with being convicted of one misdemeanor count of driving with a blood alcohol content of .08% or more and using drugs and/or alcohol in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person or the public. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol; completing an ethics course; notification of employer; submitting to biological

fluid testing; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$8,000.00. October 14, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

HODGSON, JEFFREY ROSS, M.D. (A 100211), APTOS, CA

No admissions but charged with being convicted of a misdemeanor upon a plea of no contest to Vehicle Code 23152(b), driving a vehicle with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of 0.08% or more with an enhancement for a BAC greater than 0.15%, and using drugs and/or alcohol in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of alcohol; submitting to biological fluid testing; completing an ethics course; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$3,000.00. September 9, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

HURVITZ, JAMES SANDOR (G 28478), WEST HILLS, CA

Convicted and required to register as a sex offender. Revoked. August 26, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

JENSEN, LOIS ANN (C 50040), EUREKA, CA

Unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of her Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. October 20, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

JOHNSON, KERMIT DALE (G 45056), LAS VEGAS, NV

Unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. September 9, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

KADIVAR, KHADIJEH, M.D. (A 125422), LITTLETON, CO

Admitted to having a condition affecting her ability to practice medicine safely and to dishonest or corrupt acts. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, notifying patients of probation status; abstaining from the use of controlled substances, alcohol, and cannabis; completing an ethics course; attending psychotherapy; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; notification of employer; submitting to biological fluid testing; attending substance abuse support group meetings; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$5,700.00. October 13, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

KATZ, MICHAEL SOLOMON, M.D. (A 131463), SAN MARCOS, CA

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education course, and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$8,877.50. Public Reprimand. September 9, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

KEE, STEPHEN THOMAS (A 56389), SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. September 1, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

KEMPERT, RICHARD JOSEPH, M.D. (C 37249), DANA POINT, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient; repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of two patients; aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine; prescribing without an appropriate prior medical

examination or indication and failing to maintain adequate or accurate medical records in his care and treatment of two patients; and general unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing any controlled substances except for those drugs listed in Schedule V until completion of a prescribing practices course, and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$12,027.50. October 6, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

KHAN, HUMAYON YOUSUF, M.D. (G 74748), SANTA ANA, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient, and general unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, an ethics course, and a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants but shall not be prohibited from supervising his advanced practice nurse; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,640.00. September 9, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

KHODAVERDIAN, REZA, M.D. (A 127413), RANCHO MIRAGE, CA

Admitted to repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete an education Course, and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and

enforcement in the amount of \$825.00. Public Reprimand. September 9, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

KILLEEN, TIMOTHY JOHN, M.D. (G 55364), TEMECULA, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a prescribing practices course and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$3,658.75. October 14, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

KIM, JEANNIE, M.D. (A 72965), LEMON GROVE, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, excessively prescribing controlled substances, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients; prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication and prescribing controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose in the care and treatment of one patient; violating the Medical Practice Act; and general unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing any controlled substances, except that Dr. Kim may possess medications lawfully prescribed to her by another practitioner for a bona fide illness or condition, and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana, until successful completion of a clinical competence assessment program; if Dr. Kim fails the clinical competence assessment program, prohibited from practicing medicine until providing proof to the Board that her DEA permit has been surrendered to the DEA, and shall not reapply for a new DEA permit without

prior written consent from the Board or its designee; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; completing a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from providing treatment to Dr. Kim's family members or employees, including medical assistants, except that Dr. Kim can provide treatment to her elderly father in emergency situations only, but may not provide controlled substances to him; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$8,000.00. October 14, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**KIM, RICHARD BYOUNG SOO (A 107769),
IRVINE, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. October 14, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**KIRZNER, BERNARD MICHAEL, M.D.
(C 35243), ENCINO, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and general unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,227.50. September 30, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**KLASSEN, MICHAEL GAYLE, M.D. (G 69478),
PEBBLE BEACH, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, patient abandonment, failure to maintain adequate and

accurate medical records, incompetence, and unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$6,390.00. October 7, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**KLEEMAN, KAREN EVE, M.D. (G 44384),
SANTA MONICA, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of two patients, repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of four patients, excessively prescribed controlled substances to two patients, prescribed to an addict, prescribed without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication, and failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of four patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing dispensing, administering, furnishing or possessing any controlled substances or issue an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana until completing a prescribing practices course; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; complete an education course, prescribing practices course, medical record keeping course, and ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$6,947.50. August 12, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**KUEMMERLE, NATHAN BRIAN (A 89368),
DEL MAR, CA**

Committed acts of using drugs and/or alcohol in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself, another person, or to the public; convicted of one misdemeanor count of wet reckless driving; gross negligence and unprofessional conduct. Revoked. September 29, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**LAO, JESUS HERRERA, M.D. (A 72729),
ESCONDIDO, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on two years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$414.25. October 3, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

LEE, AMY (A 38003), RIVERSIDE, CA

Failed to comply with a Board-ordered examination. Surrender of License. October 18, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**LI, QUINN, M.D. (A 87986),
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Public Reprimand. August 19, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**LIN, JAMES THOMAS, M.D. (A 86869),
THOUSAND OAKS, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a medical record keeping course. Public Reprimand. October 7, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**LIVINGSTON, LAWRENCE HART (G 27982),
SANTA CRUZ, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. October 3, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**MACMURRAY, MICHAEL LAWRENCE, M.D.
(A 83313), OCEANSIDE, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of three patients; incompetence and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment on two patients, and general unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$9,786.56. September 30, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**MAGIMBI, ATHANASIOS SSETTIMBA, M.D.
(A 76322), TRACY, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients; and general unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,096.25. October 14, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**MALY, ROSE CARMEN (G 35390),
LOS ANGELES, CA**

Failed to comply with a Board-ordered examination. Surrender of License. September 14, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**MAMO, DAWIT, M.D. (A 54482),
APPLE VALLEY, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on two years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$10,475.00. October 7, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

MARIANO, JR., HIPOLITO GALLARDO, M.D. (A 88903), CLOVIS, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing any controlled substances, with the exception of those listed in Schedule IV and V of the Act, and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,536.25. August 17, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**MOWLAVI, ARIAN S, M.D. (A 85870),
LAGUNA BEACH, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient; aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine; false representations; dissemination of public communication containing false representations; dishonesty; failing to timely report an adverse event; and general unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on ten years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, ninety (90) days actual suspension from the practice of medicine beginning on the effective date of the Decision (until 01/05/2023); completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; completing a clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from performing and/or participating in VASER liposuction surgeries/procedures until successful completion of the clinical competence assessment program; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$16,103.75. October 7, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**MUSIELEWICZ, ANTHONY JAMES (G 74503),
BATON ROUGE, LA**

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. October 17, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

NESS, ANDREW (A 49649), ANTIOCH, CA

Admitted to gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failure to follow applicable standards for liposuction, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient; aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine; gross negligence; sexual misconduct; dishonest or corrupt acts; and violated professional confidence. Surrender of License. October 21, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**NGUYEN, LINHKIEU THI, M.D. (A 83886),
SAN DIEGO, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of one patient, general unprofessional conduct, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,796.25. October 28, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**NORWOOD, PAUL CARLTON, M.D. (A 38798),
FRESNO, CA**

Admitted to gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient; repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of multiple patients; unprofessional conduct; and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; completing a professional boundaries program; obtaining a practice monitor; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$7,200.00. September 16, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**OBENG, MICHAEL K, M.D. (A 107087),
BEVERLY HILLS, CA**

No admissions but charged with knowingly making or signing a document directly related to the practice of medicine that falsely represented an existence of a statement of facts; failing to obtain a fictitious name permit; using unapproved fictitious names in signage and/or advertising materials; dishonest or corrupt acts; gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation

with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a medical record keeping course and an ethics course; obtaining a practice and billing monitor; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$3,178.75. September 23, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**OLENICK, JONATHAN D, M.D. (G 15638),
SAN BERNARDINO, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a professionalism program (ethics course), and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,511.25. Public Reprimand. August 24, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**OOI, JAMES PENG GUAN (C 39127),
CORNING, CA**

Unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Surrender of License. October 18, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**OWINGS, JOHN THOMPSON (A 44765),
SHREVEPORT, LA**

Disciplined by Louisiana based on a criminal conviction for twenty felony counts of theft of government property and one felony count of concealing and failing to disclose an event affecting a right to a Title II benefit, and committed an act of unprofessional conduct by knowingly making a false statement related to a criminal conviction. Revoked. October 6, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**PALLAS, ROBERT SHELDON, M.D. (A 32895),
LONG BEACH, CA**

No admissions but charged with aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine; failed to obtain a fictitious name permit; improperly procuring fictitious name permits for corporations; using an unapproved fictitious name permit; participation and/or affiliation

with medical corporations founded, structured, controlled, and/or operated in violation of the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act; and assisting in the violation of corporate practice of medicine laws and regulations. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, providing 200 hours of medical or non-medical community service; completing an education and ethics course; obtaining practice and billing monitors; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. August 12, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

PANCHAL, MAHENDRA JAGJIVANDAS, M.D. (A 89996), CINCINNATI, OH

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of five patients and unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$10,048.75. August 24, 2022.

[View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

PARK, PETER HAEYOUNG, M.D. (G 67513), LOS ANGELES, CA

Failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients. Public Reprimand. September 29, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

PERSAUD, RONALD GODWIN, M.D. (C 52276), CALABASAS, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of two patients; repeated negligent acts, clearly excessive prescribing, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to,

maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,960.00. September 30, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

POLAK, CLARA LUCY, M.D. (A 66649), CHULA VISTA, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence and repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of two patients, excessively prescribed controlled substances to two patients, and failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of two patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$3,655.00. August 24, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

POPPER, RONALD ALAN, M.D. (A 35734), THOUSAND OAKS, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient. Physician must complete a prescribing practices course and reimburse the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$11,313.75. Public Reprimand. September 23, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**PROTTER, PAUL MICHAEL (G 55632),
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and ethical violations. Surrender of License. August 3, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**RAMANA, CHIGURUPATI VENKATA, M.D.
(C 170471), MANTECA, CA**

Disciplined by Oklahoma for failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records and committed one or more otherwise unspecified violations of the Oklahoma Medical Practice Act; and committed unprofessional conduct, including negligent medical care and unnecessary invasive medical procedures. Revoked, stayed, placed on seven years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing a clinical competence assessment program; participating in a professional enhancement program after successfully completing the clinical competence assessment program; obtaining a practice and billing monitor after successfully completing the clinical competence assessment program if no professional enhancement program is available; completing an education course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from performing arterial or venous stenting, except under direct supervision by another physician or within the course of a formal training program approved in advance by the Board; notifying all patients being treated for any vascular disorder, at the time of initial diagnosis or consultation, that Dr. Ramana is prohibited from performing arterial or venous stenting except under supervision; prohibited from supervising physician assistants or advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of enforcement in the amount of \$821.25. September 28, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**RIENZO, FRANCIS GERARD (C 173915),
SEA GIRT, NJ**

Disciplined by New Jersey for engaging in inappropriate sexual conduct with a female patient. Surrender of License. September 14, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**RISLEY, RONALD PAUL (A 63721),
FAIR OAKS, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts in the care and treatment of three patients; and incompetence in the care and treatment of one patient. Surrender of License. September 14, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**ROBINSON, ROY JOHN (A 56270),
SANTEE, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients. Surrender of License. August 15, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**ROSENBERG, MARIO Z, M.D. (A 30941),
BEVERLY HILLS, CA**

Convicted of one misdemeanor count of presenting a false or fraudulent insurance claim in violation of Penal Code section 550 (b)(1); and unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on four years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, providing 480 hours of medical or non-medical community service; completing an ethics course; obtaining a billing monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of enforcement in the amount of \$20,000.00. October 3, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SANTANA, IGNACIO ABEL, M.D. (A 182090),
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely, and committed acts of unprofessional conduct and incompetence. Probationary license issued, placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, attending psychotherapy; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. September 15, 2022.

[*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SCHAFLE, MICHAEL F (C 42249),
FORTUNA, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. October 4, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SCHILLING, RONALD MICHAEL (G 60661),
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA**

Failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked. August 15, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SCHWARTZ, ALAN CHARLES, M.D. (A 42023),
SANTA ANA, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence in the care and treatment of one patient, repeated negligent acts and failing to maintain adequate and accurate records in the care and treatment of two patients, and unprofessional conduct. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, prohibited from ordering, prescribing, dispensing, administering, furnishing, or possessing any controlled substances, except those drugs listed in Schedules III, IV, and V (this restriction shall not apply to controlled substances administered to patients who are admitted to the hospital and only for their immediate use while they remain so admitted), and from issuing an oral or written recommendation or approval to possess or cultivate marijuana; maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered,

or possessed and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$4,785.00. September 23, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SHAEFFER, ZANE AARON, M.D. (A 135109),
NEWCASTLE, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, failing to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, and general unprofessional conduct in the care and treatment of one patient. Revoked, stayed, and placed on three years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a medical record keeping course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$21,000.00. September 29, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SEARS, ROBERT WILLIAM M.D. (A 60936),
CAPISTRANO BEACH, CA**

No admissions but charged with repeated negligent acts and violations of the Medical Practice Act in the care and treatment of one patient; and failed to comply with terms of his Board-ordered probation by failing to obey all laws. Revoked, stayed, and placed on a period of probation to run concurrent with the existing probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course and a medical record keeping course; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$8,839.00. September 30, 2022. [*View the decision and the order on the Board's website.*](#)

**SIVAKUMAR, KUMARASAMY (A 54211),
LANCASTER, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, prescribing without an appropriate prior medical examination or indication, and excessively prescribed controlled substances in the care and treatment of two patients; repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of three patients; and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. August 26, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**STONE, JOSEPH JEFFEREY (G 54030),
LOS ANGELES, CA**

Committed acts of gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient; and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Surrender of License. August 3, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**SULLIVAN, SAMMIR MICHAEL, M.D.
(A 182686), SANTA CLARA, CA**

Committed acts of unprofessional conduct, used drugs and/or alcohol in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to himself or the public, and has a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Probationary license issued, placed on one year probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, notification of employer; submitting to biological fluid testing; attending substance abuse support group meetings; obtaining a worksite monitor; abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol; attending psychotherapy; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. October 6, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**TALLEYRAND, JEAN L, M.D. (A 61572),
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple

patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from writing, issuing or otherwise aiding and abetting the writing or issuance of exemptions from any vaccine for any patient or other persons, notifying all patients of the prohibition and maintaining a log of all patients to whom the required oral notification was made; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$5,595.00. September 9, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**TAMARIN, MARK WILFRED (A 38807),
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA**

Convicted of seven felony counts of wire fraud, and committed dishonest or corrupt acts. Surrender of License. October 18, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

**TRUONG, SON NGOC, M.D. (A 97261),
WESTMINSTER, CA**

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of one patient; failure to maintain malpractice insurance; knowingly making or signing a document directly related to the practice of medicine that falsely represented an existence of a statement of facts; general unprofessional conduct; and failed to comply with multiple terms of his Board-ordered probation. Revoked, stayed, placed on thirty-five months' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, completing an education course, a prescribing practices course (condition satisfied), a medical record keeping course (condition satisfied), and an ethics course (condition satisfied); completing a clinical competence assessment program (condition satisfied); obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from performing any procedures requiring any form of sedation in a non-accredited surgery center; prohibited from supervising physician

assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$5,155.00. October 14, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

VALENTINE, DANNY LEE, M.D. (A 113826), SAN DIEGO, CA

No admissions but charged with having a condition affecting his ability to practice medicine safely. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, abstaining from the use of controlled substances and alcohol; submitting to biological fluid testing; attending psychotherapy; prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of medicine; obtaining a worksite monitor; and prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. October 20, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

WARE, DANA SUZANNE, M.D. (G 55407), CHESTER, CA

No admissions but charged with gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate medical records in the care and treatment of multiple patients. Revoked, stayed, placed on five years' probation with terms and conditions including, but not limited to, maintaining a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possessed and any recommendations or approvals to possess or cultivate marijuana; completing an education course, a prescribing practices course, a medical record keeping course, and an ethics course; obtaining a practice monitor; prohibited from prescribing Schedule II controlled substances to patients for chronic pain management therapy but can prescribe Schedule II controlled substances to treat acute pain in a quantity that is medically consistent with a five-day prescription; prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses; and reimbursing the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$550.00. October 14, 2022. [View the decision and the order on the Board's website.](#)

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Medical Board of California
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MBC BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 17-19, 2023; Location - 625 N. Market Blvd.,
Sacramento, CA 95834

August 23-26, 2023; Location - TBD

Please visit the Board's [2023 Board and Committee Meetings webpage](#) for updates.

Until further notice, the Board Members will conduct all public meetings pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's [Executive Order N-29-20](#) and in compliance with the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act, via online meeting applications or telephone conferences.

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[Business and Professions Code § 2021\(b\) and \(c\)](#) require physicians to inform the Medical Board in writing of any name or address change. Visit our [Resources for Maintaining Your Physician's and Surgeon's License webpage](#) to learn more.

Medical Board of California, Interim Executive Director — Reji Varghese

Medical Board of California News — First Quarter 2023 Edition

Contact us by email: webmaster@mbc.ca.gov