JOPY

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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* * *

In the Matter of Charges and **Complaint Against**

Respondent.

ALBERT COOK, M.D.,

NCase No. 08-4854-1 FILED 1.06.04 CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMPLAINT

The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), 12 13 composed of Charles N. Held, M.D., Chairman, Jean Stoess, M.A., Member, and Benjamin J. Rodriguez, M.D. Member, at the time of the authorization of filing this formal 14 15 complaint, by and through Edward O. Cousineau, counsel for the Investigative Committee, having a reasonable basis to believe that Albert Cook, M.D., hereinafter referred to as "Respondent," has 16 17 violated the provisions of NRS Chapter 630, hereby issues its formal Complaint, stating the 18 Investigative Committee's charges and allegations, as follows:

19 1. Respondent was licensed to practice medicine in the state of Nevada on 20 December 5, 1976 license to practice medicine is currently inactive, and at all times alleged 21 herein, Respondent was licensed in inactive status by the Nevada State Board of Medical 22 Examiners, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

23 Respondent was granted a license to practice medicine in the state of California on 2. 24 or about June 24, 1966. On February 20, 2007, the state of California filed a two-count Accusation against Respondent alleging Gross Negligence and Repeated Negligent Acts on the 25 26 part of Respondent.

27 3. Thereafter, on or about March 26, 2008 the state of California adopted a 28 Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order revoking Respondent's license to practice medicine

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in the state of California, however, that revocation was stayed, and Respondent was placed on 1 2 probation with multiple conditions for a period of thirty-five months, beginning on April 26, 2008. See Exhibit A. 3

Section 630.301(3) of the Nevada Revised Statutes provides that any disciplinary 4. action, including without limitation, the revocation, suspension, modification or limitation of the license to practice any type of medicine by any other jurisdiction is grounds for disciplinary action.

5. The disciplinary action related to Respondent's license to practice medicine in the state of California constitutes a violation of the provisions of NRS 630.301(3).

Based upon the forgoing, Respondent has violated Nevada Revised Statutes 6. 10 630.301(3) and is subject to discipline by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as provided in Nevada Revised Statute 630.352.

WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

That the Board fix a time and place for a formal hearing; 1.

That the Board give Respondent notice of the charges herein against him, the time 2. and place set for the hearing, and the possible sanctions against him;

17 3. That the Board determine what sanctions it determines to impose for the violation or violations committed by Respondent; and 18

That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of facts, 19 4. 20 conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2009.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Edward O. Cousineau, Esq. Attorney for the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiner Reno, Nevada 8950 (775) 688-2559 4

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VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA COUNTY OF DOUGLAS

Charles N. Held, M.D., having been duly sworn, hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the Complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and that based upon information discovered in the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes that the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate, and correct.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2009.

SS.

Charles N. Held, M.D.



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners 1105 Terminal Way #301

EXHIBIT A





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

In the Matter of the Accusation Agai	inst:))	
ALBERT COOK, M.D.)) File I	No. 09-2005-165774
Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 22030)))	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Respondent.)	I do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original on file in this office.
	DECISION	Signature Title Date

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on ______April 25, 2008_____

IT IS SO ORDERED _____March_26, 2008_____.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Bv:

Cesar A. Áristeiguieta, M.O., F.A.C.E.P. Chair Panel A

2	Supervising Deputy Attorney General MARY AGNES MATYSZEWSKI, State Bar No. Deputy Attorney General 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101	137858
5 6 7	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-3039 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061	
8	Attorneys for Complainant	
9 10	MEDICAL BOARD O	FCALIFORNIA
11	DEPARTMENT OF CON STATE OF CAI	NSUMER AFFAIRS
12		
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 09-2005-165774
14	ALBERT COOK, M.D. 33620 Mapleton Avenue, #1423	OAH No. L-2007031014
15	Murrieta, CA 92563	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 22030	DISCH EMART ORDER
17	Respondent.	
18		
19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND	AGREED by and between the parties to the
20	above-entitled proceedings that the following matters	s are true:
21	PARTIES	
22		at) is the Executive Director of the Medical
23	Board of California. She brought this action solely in	her official canacity and is represented it
24	this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney Generation	al of the State of California by Man A
25	Matyszewski, Deputy Attorney General.	an of the State of Cantonnia, by Mary Agnes
26		MD (Respondent) is survey of the second
27	2. Respondent ALBERT COOK, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Robert W. Frank, Esq., of Neil, Dymott, Frank, McFall & Trexler, APLC,	
28	whose address is 1010 Second Avenue, Suite 2500, Sa	an Diego, CA 92101-4959.
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1 On or about June 24, 1966, the Medical Board of California issued 3. Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 22030 to Albert Cook, M.D. (Respondent). The 2 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the 3 charges brought in Accusation No. 09-2005-165774 and will expire on March 31, 2009, unless 4 5 renewed. 6 <u>JURISDICTION</u> 7 Accusation No. 09-2005-165774 was filed before the Medical Board of 4. California, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily 8 required documents were properly served on Respondent on February 20, 2007. Respondent 9 timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 10 09-2005-165774 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference. 11 12 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS 13 Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the 5. right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by 14 counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; 15 the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of 16 subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to 17 reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the 18 California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws. 19 20 Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up 6. each and every right set forth above. 21 22 <u>CULPABILITY</u> 23 Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in 7. Accusation No. 09-2005-165774. 24 25 Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject 8. to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Medical Board of California's imposition of 26 discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below. 27 28 ///

<u>CONTINGENCY</u>

2 This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of 9. California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the 3 Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Medical Board of California 4 regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his 5 counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not 6 withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Medical Board of 7 California considers and acts upon it. If the Medical Board of California fails to adopt this 8 stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of 9 10 no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Medical Board of California shall not be disqualified from further action by 11 12 having considered this matter.

13 10. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the
14 parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive
15 embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

16 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated
17 Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same
18 force and effect as the originals.

19 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties
20 agree that the Medical Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter
21 the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A
 22030 issued to Respondent Albert Cook, M.D. (Respondent) is revoked. However, the
 revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for thirty-five (35) months on the
 following terms and conditions:

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1 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION Within 60 calendar days of 1. the effective date of this Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, respondent shall submit to 2 the Medical Board or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) 3 which shall not be less than 15 hours per year, for each year of probation. The educational 4 program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge 5 and shall be Category I certified, limited to classroom, conference, or seminar settings. The 6 7 educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the 8 completion of each course, the Medical Board or its designee may administer an examination to 9 10 test respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 40 hours of continuing medical education of which 15 hours were in satisfaction of this condition. 11

CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM Within 365 calendar days of the
 effective date of this Decision, respondent shall enroll in a clinical training or educational
 program equivalent to the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program (PACE)
 offered at the University of California - San Diego School of Medicine ("Program").

The Program shall consist of a Comprehensive Assessment program comprised of 16 a two-day assessment of respondent's physical and mental health; basic clinical and 17 communication skills common to all clinicians; and medical knowledge, skill and judgment 18 pertaining to respondent's specialty or sub-specialty, and at minimum, a 40 hour program of 19 clinical education in the area of practice in which respondent was alleged to be deficient and 20 which takes into account data obtained from the assessment, Decision(s), Accusation(s), and any 21 other information that the Medical Board or its designee deems relevant. Respondent shall pay 22 23 all expenses associated with the clinical training program.

Based on respondent's performance and test results in the assessment and clinical
education, the Program will advise the Medical Board or its designee of its recommendation(s)
for the scope and length of any additional educational or clinical training, treatment for any
medical condition, treatment for any psychological condition, or anything else affecting
respondent's practice of medicine. Respondent shall comply with Program recommendations.

At the completion of any additional educational or clinical training, respondent
 shall submit to and pass an examination. The Program's determination whether or not
 respondent passed the examination or successfully completed the Program shall be binding.

Respondent shall complete the Program not later than twelve months after
respondent's initial enrollment unless the Medical Board or its designee agrees in writing to a
later time for completion.

Failure to participate in and complete successfully all phases of the clinical
training program outlined above is a violation of probation.

9 **NOTIFICATION** Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the 3. respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s) to the Chief of Staff or 10 the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to 11 respondent, at any other facility where respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including 12 13 all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to respondent. 14 Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Medical Board or its designee within 15 15 16 calendar days.

17 This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or18 insurance carrier.

SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS During probation,
 respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants.

5. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u> Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local
 laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance
 with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.

6. <u>QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS</u> Respondent shall submit quarterly
 declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Medical Board, stating whether
 there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit
 quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.
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7. <u>PROBATION UNIT COMPLIANCE</u> Respondent shall comply with
 the Medical Board's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Medical Board
 informed of respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be
 immediately communicated in writing to the Medical Board or its designee. Under no
 circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by
 Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in respondent's place of
residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and
surgeon's license.

10 Respondent shall immediately inform the Medical Board, or its designee, in
11 writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is
12 contemplated to last, more than 30 calendar days.

8. INTERVIEW WITH THE MEDICAL BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE
 Respondent shall be available in person for interviews either at respondent's place of business or
 at the probation unit office, with the Medical Board or its designee, upon request at various
 intervals, and either with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.

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<u>RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE</u> In the event

respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, respondent shall notify the Medical Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Medical Board or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve respondent of the responsibility

to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and
 the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; Probation Unit Compliance;
 and Cost Recovery.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if respondent's periods of
temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California total two years. However,
respondent's license shall not be canceled as long as respondent is residing and practicing
medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical
licensing authority of that state, in which case the two year period shall begin on the date
probation is completed or terminated in that state.

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10. FAILURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

11 In the event respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason respondent stops practicing medicine in California, respondent shall notify the Medical Board or 12 its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to 13 practice. Any period of non-practice within California, as defined in this condition, will not 14 apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve respondent of the 15 responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as 16 17 any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code. 18

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the
Medical Board or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For
purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with
any other condition of probation, shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if respondent resides in
California and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities
described in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052.

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111. COMPLETION OF PROBATIONRespondent shall comply with all2financial obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar3days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation,4respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.

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

12 **LICENSE SURRENDER** Following the effective date of this Decision, 13. if respondent ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy 13 the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may request the voluntary surrender of 14 respondent's license. The Medical Board reserves the right to evaluate respondent's request and 15 to exercise its discretion whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed 16 appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, 17 respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the 18 19 Medical Board or its designee and respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of 20 respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action. If respondent re-applies for a medical 21 license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate. 22

14. <u>PROBATION MONITORING COSTS</u> Respondent shall pay the costs
associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the
Medical Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the
Medical Board of California and delivered to the Medical Board or its designee no later than
January 31 of each calendar year. Failure to pay costs within 30 calendar days of the due date is
a violation of probation.

TO TH BELL VHIVIT

NO.748 P010

1	ACCEPTANCE	
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and	
3	have fully discussed it with my attorney, Robert W. Frank, Esq. I understand the stipulation and	
4	the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated	
5	Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be	
6	bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.	
7	DATED: 2-19-03.	
8	ALBERT COOK MAR	
· -9·		
10		
11	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Albert Cook, M.D. the terms and	ļ
12	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary	
13	Order. I approve its form and content.	
14	DATED: 2-19-08 R	
15	ROBERT W. FRANK, ESQ.	• •
- 16	Attorney for Respondent	
17		
18	ENDORSEMENT	
19	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully	
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22	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California	
23	NIEVEN V. ADLEN	
24	Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
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26	MARY ACTIVES WARTS SEE WORK	
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Exhibit A Accusation No. 09-2005-165774

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	1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California	
	2	STEVEN V. ADLER	
	3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General MARY AGNES MATYSZEWSKI, State Bar No. 1	37858
	4	Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice	
	5	110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100	FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA
		San Diego, CA 92101	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
	6	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266	SACRAMENTO Delanan 20 07
	7	Telephone: (619) 645-3039 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061	BY LA Cone MORE ANALYST
	8		
	9	Attorneys for Complainant	
	10	BEFORE DIVISION OF MEDI	CAL QUALITY
	11	MEDICAL BOARD O DEPARTMENT OF CON	
	12	STATE OF CAL	
		In the Matter of the Accuration Accients	C N 00 2005 165774
	13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 09-2005-165774
	14	ALBERT COOK, M.D. 33620 Mapleton Avenue, #1423	OAH No.
•	15	Murrieta, CA 92563	ACCUSATION
	16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 22030	
	17		
	18	Respondent.	
	19		
	20	Complainant alleges:	
	21	PARTIE	8
	22		
		1. David T. Thornton (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his	
	23	official capacity as the Executive Director of the Med	lical Board of California.
	24	2. On or about June 24, 1966, the	Medical Board of California issued
	25	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 2203	80 to ALBERT COOK, M.D. (Respondent).
	26	The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full	force and effect at all times relevant to the
	27	charges brought herein and will expire on March 31,	2009, unless renewed.
	28	///	
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JURISDICTION

2	3. This Accusation is brought before the Division of Medical Quality
3	(Division) for the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, under the
4	authority of the following sections of the Business and Professions Code ("Code"). All section
5	references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
6	4. Section 2227 of the Code states:
7	"(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of
8	the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government
9	Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into
10	a stipulation for disciplinary action with the division, may, in accordance with the
11	provisions of this chapter:
12	"(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the division.
13	"(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed
14	one year upon order of the division.
15	"(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation
16	monitoring upon order of the division.
17	"(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the division.
18	"(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order
19	of probation, as the division or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
20	"(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning
21	letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency
22	examinations, continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated
23	therewith that are agreed to with the division and successfully completed by the
24	licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by existing law, is
25	deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to
26	Section 803.1."
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5. Section 2234 of the Code states:

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

"(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter[Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].

"(b) Gross negligence.

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

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

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

"(d) Incompetence.

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

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

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FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

6. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Section
2234, subdivision (b) of the Code, in that respondent was grossly negligent in his care and
treatment of the patient listed below. The circumstances are as follows:

A. On or about July 1, 2003, patient Herminia H., a 59-year-old female, presented to respondent for the second of three cervico-thoracic epidural steroid injections, which respondent had recommended because of the patient's cervical pain.

B. According to his operative report, respondent placed the patient in the prone position and sedated her using Versed and Sublimaze (aka Fentanyl). Respondent noted that, "Under fluroscopy I identified the anatomical landmarks and I infiltrated 1% lidocaine using a 27-gauge needle into the intralaminar space betweenT2-3." Respondent recorded he "then placed an 18-gauge Tuohy epidural needle into the intralaminar space" and injected contrast material to "perform an epidurogram which delineated the patient's epidural space." Respondent further documented that he "then placed an epidural catheter into the needle and placed the catheter up to C6 on the left lateral aspect of the epidural space." Respondent next injected additional contrast material, 4 ml of 0.25% marcaine and 12 mg. of Celestone-Soluspan. Throughout the procedure, respondent directly supervised a registered nurse to administer "moderate sedation" with intravenous agents.

C. In actuality, respondent was not in the patient's epidural space but had punctured her dura (spinal column) and was injecting his materials directly into her spinal column.

D. Respondent admitted during his interview that as he was withdrawing his epidural needle the patient's head "jerked up." Respondent also admitted he immediately left the operating room before the patient was taken to the recovery room, turning her care over to his nurse.

E. At the conclusion of the procedure, the patient's pulse was 40 and 1 2 she was suffering from total spinal anesthesia, a condition respondent did not recognize. 3 4 F. The patient was transferred to the recovery room where, a few 5 minutes later, she suffered a cardiorespiratory arrest which led to hypoxic 6 encephalopathy resulting in permanent neurological injury. 7 7. Respondent has committed acts or omissions constituting gross 8 negligence during his care and treatment of this patient in violation of Section 2234. 9 subdivision (b), in that: 10 Respondent failed to monitor the patient for several minutes Α. 11 following the procedure. 12 В. Respondent prematurely transferred the care of the patient to his 13 nurse. C. 14 Respondent failed to recognize the patient was suffering from total 15 spinal anesthesia. 16 D. Respondent failed to recognize the patient was suffering inadequate 17 ventilation. 18 SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 19 (Repeated Negligent Acts) 20 8. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action pursuant to 21 Section 2234, subdivision (c) of the Code, in that respondent was repeatedly negligent in 22 his care and treatment of the patient listed below. The circumstances are as follows: 23 Α. Paragraphs 6 and 7 are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth 24 herein. 25 B. Respondent improperly used propofol for sedation in addition to 26 the Versed and Fentanyl. 27 C. Respondent failed to recognize he had punctured the patient's dura. 28 ///

. 1	PRAYER		
. 2	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters		
3	herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Division of Medical Quality issue a		
4	decision:		
5	1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate		
6	Number A 22030, issued to Albert Cook, M.D.		
7	2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Albert Cook, M.D.'s		
8	authority to supervise physician's assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;		
9	3. Ordering Albert Cook, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the		
10	Division of Medical Quality the costs of probation monitoring; and		
- 11	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and		
. 12	proper.		
13			
14	DATED: February 20, 2007		
15			
16	- Etta		
17	DAVID T. THORNTON Executive Director		
18	Medical Board of California State of California		
19	Complainant		
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