### 9600 Gateway Drive Reno, Nevada 89521 (775) 688-2559

### BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

\* \* \* \* \*

In the Matter of Charges and Complaint

Against:

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RAJEEV SHARAD KHAMAMKAR, M.D.,

Respondent.

Case No. 21-12218-1

FILED

OCT 1 1 2021

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF** MEDICAL EXAMINERS

### **COMPLAINT**

The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), by and through Aaron Bart Fricke, J.D., General Counsel and attorney for the IC, having a reasonable basis to believe that Rajeev Sharad Khamamkar, M.D., (Respondent) violated the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act), hereby issues its Complaint, stating the IC's charges and allegations as follows:

- Respondent was at all times relative to this Complaint a medical doctor holding an 1. active license to practice medicine in the State of Nevada (License No. 8597). Respondent was originally licensed by the Board on April 8, 1998.
- 2. Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) is a specific anesthesia service for a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure. Indications for MAC include the nature of the procedure, the individual's clinical condition and/or the potential need to convert to a general or regional anesthetic.
- 3. MAC includes all aspects of anesthesia care: a pre-procedure visit, intra-procedure care, and post-procedure anesthesia management. During MAC, the anesthesiologist provides or medically directs a number of specific services, including but not limited to:
  - a. Diagnosis and treatment of clinical problems that occur during the procedure;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, at the time this formal Complaint was authorized for filing, was composed of Board members Victor M. Muro, M.D., Chair, Weldon Havins, M.D., Member, and Ms. Maggie Arias-Petrel, Public Member.

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- c. Administration of sedatives, analgesics, hypnotics, anesthetic agents or other medications as necessary for patient safety;
- d. Psychological support and physical comfort;
- e. Provision of other medical services as needed to complete the procedure safely. MAC may include varying levels of sedation, analgesia, and anxiolysis as necessary. The provider of MAC must be prepared and qualified to convert to general anesthesia when necessary. If the individual loses consciousness and the ability to respond purposefully, the anesthesia care is a general anesthetic, irrespective of whether airway instrumentation is required.
- 4. MAC is not medically necessary for interventional pain procedures in individuals at average risk related to use of anesthesia and sedation. The use of MAC may be medically necessary for interventional pain procedures when specific risk factors or significant medical conditions are present, and when the proceduralist and anesthesiologist truthfully document these factors and conditions.
- 5. The American Society of Anesthesiologists Physical Status Classification System is used for classifying individuals for the purposes of anesthesia for surgical operations. Under this system:
  - a. ASA 1 or I is a normal, healthy individual;
  - b. ASA 2 or II is an individual with mild systemic disease;
  - c. ASA 3 or III an individual with severe systemic disease;
  - d. ASA 4 or IV is an individual with severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life:
  - e. ASA 5 or V is a moribund individual who is not expected to survive without the operation;
  - f. ASA 6 or VI is a declared brain-dead individual whose organs are being harvested.
- 6. Pursuant to NRS 630.305(d), charging for services which were not rendered is grounds for disciplinary action or denying licensure.

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- 7. NAC 630.185 to 630.230, inclusive, set forth the standards of practice established by the Board. See NAC 630.185.
- 8. Pursuatnt to NAC 630.230(1)(a) it is prohibited professional conduct to falsify records of health care.
- 9. Pursuant to NRS 630.306(1)(b)(2), the violation of NAC 630.230 is grounds for disciplinary action or denying licensure.
- 10. Pursuant to NRS 630.301(7), engaging in conduct that violates the trust of a patient and exploits the relationship between the physician and the patient for financial or other personal gain is grounds for disciplinary action or denying licensure.
- 11. Pursuant to NRS 630.301(4), malpractice is grounds for disciplinary action or denying licensure.
- 12. Pursuant to NAC 630.040, for the purposes of chapter 630 of NRS, "malpractice" means the failure of a physician, in treating a patient, to use the reasonable care, skill, or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances.

### **PATIENT A**

- Patient A<sup>2</sup> was a fifty-three (53) year-old female at the time of the events at issue. 13. Her name is not disclosed in this Complaint to protect her identity, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation contemporaneously served on Respondent with a copy of this Complaint.
- 14. On September 5, 2018, Patient A presented to Sunset Ridge Surgery Center for a diagnostic pain block injection to the superior cluneal nerves, without anesthesia.
- 15. Patient A did not consent to receive anesthesia for the procedure, and was adamant about not getting anesthesia, which refusal was acknowledged by Respondent.
- 16. The pain block was performed by another provider, during which, Patient A received no sedatives of any kind, nor was an IV placed to administer fluids or medications.
- 17. Respondent was present in the room where the procedure was being performed on Patient A.
  - 18. Respondent billed Patient A for MAC, a service he did not render to Patient A on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Patient A's true identity is not disclosed herein to protect his privacy, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation served upon Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

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September 5, 2018. Respondent billed using code 01992 for 5 units, physical status for 1 unit, and time for 1 unit, totaling 7 units. Code 01992 is a 5 unit base billing code defined as anesthesia for diagnostic or therapeutic nerve blocks and injections (when block or injection is performed by a different provider) in the prone position.

- 19. Respondent did not provide to Patient A the service of anesthesia for diagnostic or therapeutic nerve blocks and injections (when block or injection is performed by a different provider) in the prone position.
- 20. Patient A's past medical history included psoriasis, endometriosis, chronic pain from an injury, and a BMI of 33 (which qualifies as obese, but not morbidly obese, which requires BMI 35 or higher with obesity-related comorbidities and/or BMI greater than 40).
- 21. Patient A did not have severe systemic disease, and did not meet the criteria to be considered an ASA 3.
- 22. Respondent falsified his medical record, checking "yes" to multiple diagnoses or conditions that Patient A did not have, in an apparent attempt to fraudulently "qualify" Patient A for anesthesia services for purposes of insurance reimbursement:
  - a. On his pre-operative screening checklist, Respondent stated that Patient A had Obstructive Sleep Apnea, GERD, Glaucoma, and ETOH/Drugs; Patient A had none of these conditions.
  - b. Respondent also stated that Patient A was "ASA 3"; Patient A was not ASA 3.

### **COUNT I**

### NRS 630.305(1)(d) – Charging for Services Not Rendered

- 23. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 24. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent charged Patient A for anesthesia services that he did not render.
- 25. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

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### **COUNT II**

### NAC 630.230(1)(a) - Falsifying Medical Records

- 26. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 27. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent falsified Patient A's medical records, falsely stating that Patient A had a history of Obstructive Sleep Apnea, GERD, Glaucoma, and ETOH/Drugs, and stating that Patient A was "ASA 3," when she was not.
- 28. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### **COUNT III**

### NRS 630.301(7) - Violating the Trust of a Patient for Financial Gain

- 29. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 30. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent violated the trust placed in him by Patient A by billing for MAC and charging Patient A's insurance for the service, when he had, in fact, not provided MAC, and when he was fully aware that Patient A did not want MAC, and when MAC was not medically necessary.
- 31. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### **COUNT IV**

### NRS 630.301(4) - Malpractice

- 32. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 33. As demonstrated by, but not limited to, the above-outlined facts, Respondent committed malpractice when he failed to use the reasonable care, skill or knowledge ordinarily used under similar circumstances when rendering medical services to Patient A, by billing for MAC and charging Patient A's insurance for the service, when he had, in fact, not provided MAC,

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and when he was fully aware that Patient A did not want MAC, and when MAC was not medically necessary, and by falsifying Patient A's medical records, falsely stating that Patient A had a history of Obstructive Sleep Apnea, GERD, Glaucoma, and ETOH/Drugs, and stating that Patient A was "ASA 3," when she was not.

34. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

### WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

- 1. That the Board give Respondent notice of the charges herein against him and give him notice that he may file an answer to the Complaint herein as set forth in NRS 630.339(2) within twenty (20) days of service of the Complaint;
- 2. That the Board set a time and place for a formal hearing after holding an Early Case Conference pursuant to NRS 630.339(3);
- 3. That the Board determine what sanctions to impose if it determines there has been a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act committed by Respondent;
- 4. That the Board award fees and costs for the investigation and prosecution of this case as outlined in NRS 622.400;
- 5. That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and
- 6. That the Board take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

DATED this 11th day of October, 2021.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

AARON BART FRICKE, J.D.

General Counsel 9600 Gateway Drive Reno, NV 89521

Tel: (775) 688-2559

Email: africke@medboard.nv.gov Attorney for the Investigative Committee

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

### **VERIFICATION**

STATE OF NEVADA	)
	: ss
COUNTY OF CLARK	)

Victor M. Muro, 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 day of October, 2021.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

m mund Mo By:

> VICTOR M. MURO, M.D. Chairman of the Investigative Committee

# OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I am employed by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and that on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021, I served a file-stamped copy of the foregoing COMPLAINT, via U.S. Certified Mail to the following parties:

RAJEEV SHARAD KHAMAMKAR, M.D. 1930 Village Center Circle, Suite 3-999 Las Vegas, NV 89134

Certified Tracking No.: 9171 9690 0935 0252 1574 98

DATED this 11th day of October, 2021.

MEG BYRD, Legal Assistant

Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners