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	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY	
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
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11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 5666
12	OAKDALE PHARMACY CHRISTEN YUNAH KIM,	
13	OWNER/PHARMACIST-IN-CHARGE 1390 West H Street, Suite F	ACCUSATION
14	Oakdale, CA 95361	
15	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 50734	
16	and	
17	CHRISTEN YUNAH KIM	
18	1390 West H Street, Suite F Oakdale, CA 95361	
19	Pharmacist License No. RPH 62576	
20	Respondents.	
21		
22	Complainant alleges:	
23	PARTIES	
24	1. Virginia Herold ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity	
25	as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board"), Department of Consumer Affairs.	
26	2. On or about October 4, 2011, the Board issued Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50734	
27	to Christen Yunah Kim ("Respondent"), owner and pharmacist-in-charge of Oakdale Pharmacy.	
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The pharmacy permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on October 1, 2016, unless renewed.

3. On or about July 27, 2009, the Board issued Pharmacist License Number RPH 62576 to Respondent. The pharmacist license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30, 2017, unless renewed.

# JURISDICTION/STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code ("Code") unless otherwise indicated.
  - 5. Code section 4300 states, in pertinent part:
    - (a) Every license issued may be suspended or revoked.
  - (b) The board shall discipline the holder of any license issued by the board, whose default has been entered or whose case has been heard by the board and found guilty, by any of the following methods:
    - (1) Suspending judgment.
    - (2) Placing him or her upon probation.
  - (3) Suspending his or her right to practice for a period not exceeding one year.
    - (4) Revoking his or her license.
  - (5) Taking any other action in relation to disciplining him or her as the board in its discretion may deem proper . . .
  - 6. Code section 4300.1 states:

The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license.

7. Code section 4301 states, in pertinent part:

The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of unprofessional conduct . . . Unprofessional conduct shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

. . . .

(d) The clearly excessive furnishing of controlled substances in violation of subdivision (a) of Section 11153 of the Health and Safety Code.

(j) The violation of any of the statutes of this state, or any other state, or of the United States regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs.

(o) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter or of the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing pharmacy, including regulations established by the board or by any other state or federal regulatory agency . . . .

# 8. Code section 4306.5 states, in pertinent part:

Unprofessional conduct for a pharmacist may include any of the following:

- (a) Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the inappropriate exercise of his or her education, training, or experience as a pharmacist, whether or not the act or omission arises in the course of the practice of pharmacy or the ownership, management, administration, or operation of a pharmacy or other entity licensed by the board.
- (b) Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the failure to exercise or implement his or her best professional judgment or corresponding responsibility with regard to the dispensing or furnishing of controlled substances, dangerous drugs, or dangerous devices, or with regard to the provision of services.
- (c) Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the failure to consult appropriate patient, prescription, and other records pertaining to the performance of any pharmacy function . . .

# 9. Code section 4307, subdivision (a) states:

Any person who has been denied a license or whose license has been revoked or is under suspension, or who has failed to renew his or her license while it was under suspension, or who has been a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of any partnership, corporation, firm, or association whose application for a license has been denied or revoked, is under suspension or has been placed on probation, and while acting as the manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the license was denied, revoked, suspended, or placed on probation, shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee as follows:

- (1) Where a probationary license is issued or where an existing license is placed on probation, this prohibition shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed five years.
- (2) Where the license is denied or revoked, the prohibition shall continue until the license is issued or reinstated.

("Kim"), had violated the Pharmacy Law. An audit revealed that Kim stole 545 dosage units of

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Adderall 30 mg immediate-release (IR) tablets and 600 dosage units of Adderall 30 mg extended-release (XR) capsules. The inspector found that Schedule II controlled substances had been dispersed among the stock of non-controlled substances in the pharmacy and that Kim had access to the alarm system code and Respondent's keys, allowing him to enter the facility in the middle of the night and steal the drugs. The inspector also found questionable practices as to the dispensing of controlled substances, and an internal complaint was opened against Oakdale Pharmacy by the Board.

- 24. Board Inspector T. requested and analyzed CURES data for Oakdale Pharmacy and identified irregularities or "red flags" pertaining to certain prescriptions, all of which were written by Dr. Terrill Eugene Brown. Dr. Brown surrendered his physician's and surgeon's certificate to the Medical Board of California effective June 24, 2013.<sup>1</sup>
- 25. On or about May 20, 2015, Board Inspectors T. and K. conducted an inspection at Oakdale Pharmacy and were assisted by Respondent. The inspectors obtained prescription hard copies that were written by Dr. Brown and identified during the review of the CURES data. Inspector T. found, among other things, that the majority of prescriptions written by Dr. Brown were assigned consecutive prescription numbers, indicating that the pharmacy typed the prescriptions sequentially and that a customer dropped off multiple prescriptions or multiple individuals came in groups to pick up their medications. Inspector T. asked Respondent to explain the circumstances surrounding the consecutive prescription numbers. Respondent stated that at first, one person came in with a prescription from Dr. Brown, then "all these people started coming." Initially, one person would bring in three or four prescriptions for several people. Later, groups of people began arriving with prescriptions from Dr. Brown. Respondent stated that she had the ability to access the PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program)<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Dr. Brown was charged in a grand jury indictment with illegally distributing and dispensing Schedule II controlled substances and structuring transactions to evade reporting requirements. Dr. Brown pled guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 57 months in prison.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The PDMP is a component of CURES and is accessible to pharmacists and prescribers. The data from the PDMP may be used to aid in determining if a patient see multiple prescribers, goes to multiple pharmacies to have controlled substance prescriptions filled and/or has (continued...)

- 26. During the inspection, Inspector K. found the pharmacy's Schedule II controlled substances sequestered in various drawers. Each of the drawers had hasps; however, the padlocks were unlocked and several of the drawers did not have a lock. Inspector T. also found that Quality Assurance reports were not immediately retrievable in the pharmacy.
- 27. Inspector T. requested that Respondent provide her with all electronic pharmacy dispensing records (controlled and non-controlled substances) for the period from March 1, 2012 to March 12, 2015, and gave her a blank CD. Respondent inserted the CD into the pharmacy computer, burned the requested files onto the CD, and provided it to the inspector.
- 28. Inspector T. selected several of Dr. Brown's patients who had prescriptions filled at Oakdale Pharmacy and obtained CURES Patient Activity Reports for each patient from the Board. The reports indicated that the patients were "doctor shopping" in that they would obtain prescriptions for the same controlled substance from different physicians, including Dr. Brown. The patients would then have the prescriptions filled at different pharmacies, including Oakdale Pharmacy ("pharmacy shopping"). The reports also showed that the patients were receiving early refills of the controlled substances, oftentimes many days in advance of the previously dispensed supply being exhausted.
- 29. Inspector T. determined based on her analysis of the CURES data, the prescription hard copies, Oakdale Pharmacy's dispensing data and the CURES Patient Activity Reports that from March 1, 2012 to March 12, 2015, the pharmacy dispensed numerous prescriptions for controlled substances without regard to the following factors:
- a. Dr. Brown practiced General Preventative Medicine, but only wrote prescriptions for hydrocodone with acetaminophen 10/325 mg tablets, oxycodone 30 mg tablets, and promethazine with codeine syrup. Dr. Brown did not prescribe non-controlled substances to his patients.
- b. 100% of the prescriptions written by Dr. Brown and dispensed by the pharmacy were paid for with cash.

- c. Multiple patients of Dr. Brown, with prescriptions for identical controlled substances, presented to the pharmacy around the same time.
- d. Dr. Brown's patients paid cash for high retail cost medications without the benefit of insurance.
- e. All of Dr. Brown's patients received the highest tablet strength of oxycodone (most patients received two tablets per dose) with no evidence of upward titration from a lower dose.
- f. Dr. Brown had two medical offices, one located in Fresno, approximately 98 miles from Oakdale Pharmacy, and the other located in Visalia, approximately 143 miles from the pharmacy.
- g. Dr. Brown's patients traveled far distances in order to obtain controlled substance prescriptions from Dr. Brown and to have those prescriptions filled at Oakdale pharmacy. Several of his patients travelled from Victorville (approximately 343 miles from Oakdale pharmacy) and Long Beach (approximately 345 miles from Oakdale pharmacy). In some instances, his patients provided a Northern California address, however, their license listed an address in Long Beach or nearby city.
- h. Multiple patients of Dr. Brown resided at the same address and received very similar prescriptions for controlled substances.
- i. Multiple prescriptions were written on forms that were not in compliance with Health and Safety Code section 11162.1, as set forth in paragraph 30 below.

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Excessive Furnishing of Controlled Substances)

30. Respondent's pharmacy permit is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 4301, subdivision (d), in that Respondent, as owner of Oakdale Pharmacy, clearly excessively furnished the controlled substances hydrocodone with acetaminophen 10/325 mg tablets, oxycodone 30 mg tablets, and promethazine with codeine syrup, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11153, subdivision (a), as follows: On and between March 1, 2012 and March 12, 2015, Respondent dispensed numerous prescriptions for the above controlled substances when she knew or had objective reason to know that said

prescriptions were not issued for a legitimate medical purpose based on the irregularities or "red flags" set forth in paragraph 28 above. Further, Respondent failed to assume her corresponding responsibility when she failed to appropriately scrutinize patients' drug therapies with readily available tools, such as the PDMP and her own pharmacy records, resulting in the repeated early dispensing of controlled substances due to patients who engaged in "doctor shopping" and polypharmacy activity.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Dispensing of Controlled Substances Based on

# Prescription Forms Not in Compliance with the Law)

- 31. Respondent's pharmacy permit is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 4301, subdivision (j), in that Respondent, as owner of Oakdale Pharmacy, violated Health and Safety Code section 11164 when she filled, compounded, or dispensed approximately 31 prescriptions for hydrocodone with acetaminophen 10/325 mg tablets, oxycodone 30 mg tablets, and/or promethazine with codeine syrup based on controlled substance prescription forms, written by Dr. Brown (obtained during the Board's inspection of May 20, 2015), that were not in compliance with Health and Section 11162.1, as follows:
- a. The prescription forms did not have a latent, repetitive "void" pattern printed across the entire front of the prescription blank.
- b. The prescription forms did not have a watermark printed on the backside of the prescription blank consisting of the words "California Security Prescription."
  - c. The prescription forms did not have a feature printed in thermochromic ink.
- d. The prescription forms did not contain a statement printed on the bottom of the prescription blank that the "Prescription is void if the number of drugs prescribed is not noted."
- e. The prescription forms did not have an identifying number assigned to the approved security printer by the Department of Justice.
- f. The prescription forms did not have a check box by the name of each prescriber when the prescription formed listed multiple prescribers.

g. Each batch of controlled substance prescription forms did not have the lot number printed on the form and/or each form within the batch was not numbered sequentially beginning with the numeral one.

#### THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Failure to Comply with Quality Assurance Program)

32. Respondent's pharmacy permit is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 4301, subdivision (o), in that Respondent, as owner of Oakdale Pharmacy, failed to have available at the pharmacy any quality assurance review records or reports to provide to the inspector during the inspection, in violation of CCR section 1711.

# FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Failure to Maintain Pharmacy, Fixtures, and Equipment so that Drugs Were Safely and Properly Secured)

33. Respondent's pharmacy permit is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 4301, subdivisions (o) and (j), in that Respondent, as owner of Oakdale Pharmacy, failed to maintain the pharmacy and its facilities, space, fixtures and/or equipment so that drugs were safely and properly secured, in violation of CCR section 1714, subdivision (d), and failed to store Schedule II, III, IV, and/or V Controlled Substances in securely locked, substantially constructed cabinets, in violation of CFR section 1301.75, subdivision (b), as follows: On or about May 20, 2015, Respondent failed to ensure that Schedule II Controlled Substances were stored in locked cabinets or dispersed throughout the pharmacy's stock of noncontrolled substances.

#### FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Excessive Furnishing of Controlled Substances)

34. Respondent's pharmacist license is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 4301, subdivision (d), in that Respondent, while acting as the pharmacist-in-charge at Oakdale Pharmacy, clearly excessively furnished the controlled substances hydrocodone with acetaminophen 10/325 mg tablets, oxycodone 30 mg tablets, and promethazine with codeine syrup, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11153,

subdivision (a), as follows: On and between March 1, 2012 and March 12, 2015, Respondent dispensed numerous prescriptions for the above controlled substances when she knew or had objective reason to know that said prescriptions were not issued for a legitimate medical purpose based on the irregularities or "red flags" set forth in paragraph 28 above. Further, Respondent failed to assume her corresponding responsibility when she failed to appropriately scrutinize patients' drug therapies with readily available tools, such as the PDMP and her own pharmacy records, resulting in the repeated early dispensing of controlled substances due to patients who engaged in "doctor shopping" and poly-pharmacy activity.

# SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Unprofessional Conduct)

35. Respondent's pharmacist license is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code sections 4301 and 4306.5, subdivisions (a) through (c), in that Respondent, while acting as the pharmacist-in-charge at Oakdale Pharmacy, failed to appropriately exercise her education, training, or experience as a pharmacist, failed to exercise or implement her best professional judgment or corresponding responsibility with regard to the dispensing or furnishing of controlled substances and dangerous drugs, and failed to consult appropriate patient, prescription, and other records pertaining to the performance of her pharmacy function, as set forth in paragraph 33 above.

#### SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Dispensing of Controlled Substances Based on Prescription Forms Not in Compliance with the Law)

36. Respondent's pharmacist license is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 4301, subdivision (j), in that Respondent, while acting as the pharmacist-in-charge at Oakdale Pharmacy, violated Health and Safety Code section 11164 when she filled, compounded, or dispensed approximately 31 prescriptions for hydrocodone with acetaminophen 10/325 mg tablets, oxycodone 30 mg tablets, and/or promethazine with codeine syrup based on controlled substance prescription forms, written by Dr. Brown (obtained during

the Board's inspection of May 20, 2015), that were not in compliance with Health and Section 11162.1, as follows:

- a. The prescription forms did not have a latent, repetitive "void" pattern printed across the entire front of the prescription blank.
- b. The prescription forms did not have a watermark printed on the backside of the prescription blank consisting of the words "California Security Prescription."
  - c. The prescription forms did not have a feature printed in thermochromic ink.
- d. The prescription forms did not contain a statement printed on the bottom of the prescription blank that the "Prescription is void if the number of drugs prescribed is not noted."
- e. The prescription forms did not have an identifying number assigned to the approved security printer by the Department of Justice.
- f. The prescription forms did not have a check box by the name of each prescriber when the prescription formed listed multiple prescribers.
- g. Each batch of controlled substance prescription forms did not have the lot number printed on the form and/or each form within the batch was not numbered sequentially beginning with the numeral one.

#### EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Failure to Comply with Quality Assurance Program)

37. Respondent's pharmacist license is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 4301, subdivision (o), in that Respondent, while acting as the pharmacist-in-charge at Oakdale Pharmacy, failed to have available at the pharmacy any quality assurance review records or reports, in violation of CCR section 1711.

# NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Failure to Maintain Pharmacy, Fixtures, and Equipment so that Drugs Were Safely and Properly Secured)

38. Respondent's pharmacist license is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 4301, subdivisions (o) and (j), in that Respondent, while acting as the pharmacist-in-charge at Oakdale Pharmacy, failed to maintain the pharmacy and its

facilities, space, fixtures and/or equipment so that drugs were safely and properly secured, in violation of CCR section 1714, subdivision (d), and failed to store Schedule II, III, IV, and/or V Controlled Substances in securely locked, substantially constructed cabinets, in violation of CFR section 1301.75, subdivision (b), as follows: On or about May 20, 2015, Respondent failed to ensure that Schedule II Controlled Substances were stored in locked cabinets or dispersed throughout the pharmacy's stock of noncontrolled substances.

# **OTHER MATTERS**

- 39. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50734 issued to Oakdale Pharmacy, Oakdale Pharmacy shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50734 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50734 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 40. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50734 issued to Oakdale Pharmacy while Christen Yunah Kim has been an officer and/or owner and had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the licensee was disciplined, Christen Yunah Kim shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50434 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50734 is reinstated if it is revoked.

# **MATTERS IN AGGRAVATION**

- 41. To determine the degree of discipline to be assessed against Respondent, if any, Complainant alleges as follows:
- a. On or about March 11, 2015, a Board Inspector conducted a complaint investigation at Oakdale Pharmacy, as set forth in paragraph 22 above. On or about May 21, 2015, the Board issued Citation and Fine No. CI 2014 65415 against Respondent's pharmacy permit for violating CCR section 1714, subdivision (d) (failure to maintain adequate security of the prescription department). The Board ordered Respondent to pay a fine of \$750 by June 20, 2015. Respondent paid the citation in full on November 4, 2015.