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	BEFORE THE
9	BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 6347
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13	CHVAT HEALTH SERVICES, INC. DBA NUEVO PHARMACY
14	75 West Nuevo Road, Ste. H
15	Perris, CA 92571
16	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 50826
17	JASON SCOTT CHVAT
18	9503 Los Coches Ct. Riverside, CA 03508
19	Pharmacist License No. RPH 53345
	Respondents.
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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, Department of Consumer Affairs.
26	2. On or about March 21, 2012, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit Number
27	PHY 50826 to Chvat Health Services, Inc., doing business as Nuevo Pharmacy (Nuevo
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Pharmacy). The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on March 1, 2019, unless renewed.

3. On or about March 21, 2002, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacist License Number RPH 53345 to Jason Scott Chvat (Jason Chvat). The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 30, 2018, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 4. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
- 5. Section 4011 of the Code provides that the Board shall administer and enforce both the Pharmacy Law [Bus. & Prof. Code, § 4000 et seq.] and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act [Health & Safety Code, § 11000 et seq.].
- 6. Section 4300, subdivision (a), of the Code provides that every license issued by the Board may be suspended or revoked.
 - 7. Section 4300.1 of the Code 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.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 8. Section 4081 of the Code states in pertinent part:
 - (a) All records of manufacture and of sale, acquisition, or disposition of dangerous drugs or dangerous devices shall be at all times during business hours open to inspection by authorized officers of the law, and shall be preserved for at least three years from the date of making. A current inventory shall be kept by every manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacy, veterinary food-animal drug retailer, physician, dentist, podiatrist, veterinarian, laboratory, clinic, hospital, institution, or establishment holding a currently valid and unrevoked certificate, license, permit, registration, or exemption under Division 2 (commencing with Section 1200) of the Health and Safety Code or under Part 4 (commencing with Section

11. Section 4113, subdivision (c), of the Code states:

The pharmacist-in-charge shall be responsible for a pharmacy's compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of pharmacy.

- 12. Sections 4169, subdivision (a)(5), of the Code states:
 - (a) A person or entity shall not do any of the following:
- (5) Fail to maintain records of the acquisition or disposition of dangerous drugs or dangerous devices for at least three years.
- 13. Sections 4306.5, subdivisions (a), (b) and (c) of the Code states:

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.

14. Section 4307, subdivision (a), of the Code states that:

- (a) 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 manger, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner had knowledge 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 manger, 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.
- 15. Health and Safety Code section 11153, subdivision (a) states:

A prescription for a controlled substance shall only be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his or her professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription. Except as authorized by this division, the following are not legal prescriptions: (1) an order purporting to be a prescription which is issued not in the usual course of professional treatment or in legitimate and authorized research; or (2) an order for an addict or habitual user of controlled substances, which is issued not in the course of professional treatment or as part of an authorized narcotic treatment program, for the purpose of providing the user with controlled substances, sufficient to keep him or her comfortable by maintaining customary use.

- 16. Section 1761 of title 16, California Code of Regulations states:
- (a) No pharmacist shall compound or dispense any prescription which contains any significant error, omission, irregularity, uncertainty, ambiguity or alteration. Upon receipt of any such prescription, the pharmacist shall contact the prescriber to obtain the information needed to validate the prescription.
- (b) Even after conferring with the prescriber, a pharmacist shall not compound or dispense a controlled substance prescription where the pharmacist knows or has objective reason to know that said prescription was not issued for a legitimate medical purpose.

COST RECOVERY

17. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

DRUGS

18. MS Contin is the brand name for morphine sulfate, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055(b)(1)(L), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

- 19. <u>Percolone and Roxicodone</u> is the brand name for oxycodone, a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055(b)(1)(M), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 20. <u>Soma</u> is the brand name for carisoprodol, a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations, title 21, section 1308.14(c)(4), and is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 21. <u>Xanax</u> is the brand name for alprazolam, a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11057(d)(1), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 22. At all times relevant herein, Jason Chvat was the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Nuevo Pharmacy. Nuevo Pharmacy and Jason Chvat (collectively Respondents) dispensed controlled substances.
- 23. On December 8, 2014, the Executive Officer of the Medical Board of California filed an accusation against Dr. W.S. for, among other charges, the excessive prescribing of controlled substances, the violation of state statutes or regulations regulating drugs and the prescribing of controlled substances without an appropriate prior examination and/or medical indication.¹
- 24. From March 6, 2014 through September 14, 2015, Respondents filled 311 prescriptions for controlled substances which were written by Dr. W.S. whose address was listed on the prescriptions as being 60 miles away from Nuevo Pharmacy. Patients travelled as far as 57 miles (one way) to receive medical treatment from Dr. W.S. and traveled up to 20 miles to have their prescriptions dispensed at Nuevo Pharmacy. Patients paid for the controlled substance prescriptions in cash and did not seek reimbursement from an insurance company or government agency.

¹ Effective April 13, 2016, the Medical Board of California adopted the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order as the Decision and Order in Case No. 18-2011-220185, of that Board.

- 25. Respondents dispensed similar or identical prescriptions written by Dr. W.S. to multiple patients. Dr. W.S. primarily wrote these prescriptions for controlled substances of high abuse and diversion potential to multiple patients as follows: (1) alprazolam 2mg; and (2) oxycodone 30mg. There was no adjustment in the prescribing pattern for sex, age, weight, renal or hepatic function, race, diagnosis, past medications used or any other patient related factor.
- 26. None of the "patients" being treated by Dr. W.S. were receiving a long acting pain medication to control their baseline pain. Dr. W.S. prescribed only the highest dosage of oxycodone and alprazolam without prescribing a lower strength and increasing the strength as needed. Multiple patients were prescribed both oxycodone and alprazolam which was contraindicated.
- 27. Many patients were dispensed the same controlled substance prescriptions on the same day by Respondents, and many were dispensed in sequential order of the prescription numbers.
- 28. Respondents did not follow proper procedures for verifying if controlled substance prescriptions were written for a legitimate medical purpose, including researching whether an accusation had been filed against the prescriber's license by the Medical Board of California.
- 29. Respondents failed to maintain all records of the disposition of drugs from March 1, 2014 through May 16, 2016.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failing to Comply with Corresponding Responsibility for Legitimate Controlled Substance Prescriptions)

30. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (j), for violating Health and Safety Code section 11153, subdivision (a), in that they failed to comply with their corresponding responsibility to ensure that controlled substances were dispensed for a legitimate medical purpose when they furnished prescriptions for controlled substances even though "red flags" were present, indicating those prescriptions were not issued for a legitimate medical purpose, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 29 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Clearly Excessive Furnishing of Controlled Substances)

31. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (d), for the clearly excessive furnishing of controlled substances in violation of subdivision (a) of Section 11153 of the Health and Safety Code, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 29 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence against Respondent Jason Chyat)

32. Respondent Jason Chavat is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (c), for gross negligence in connection with the dispensing of controlled substances, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 29 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dispensing Controlled Substance Prescriptions with Significant Errors, Omissions, Irregularities, Uncertainties, Ambiguities or Alterations)

33. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (o), for violating title 16, California Code of Regulations, sections 1761, subdivision (a) and subdivision (b), in that they dispensed prescriptions for controlled substances, which contained significant errors, omissions, irregularities, uncertainties, ambiguities or alterations, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 29 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Exercise or Implement Best Professional Judgment or Corresponding Responsibility when Dispensing Controlled Substances against Respondent Jason Chvat)

34. Respondent Jason Chyat is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (o), for violating Business and Professions Code section 4306.5, subdivisions (a), (b) and (c), in that he failed to exercise or implement his best professional judgment or corresponding responsibility when dispensing controlled substances, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 29 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Records of Disposition)

35. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301(o), for violating Code sections 4081(a), 4105 and 4169(a)(5), in that they failed to maintain all the records of disposition, as set forth in paragraphs 18 through 29, which are incorporated herein by reference.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

36. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301 for unprofessional conduct in that they engaged in the activities described in paragraphs 18 through 29 above, which are incorporated herein by reference.

OTHER MATTERS

- 37. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit
 No. PHY 50826 issued to Chvat Health Services, Inc., dba Nuevo Pharmacy, Chvat Health
 Services, Inc., dba Nuevo 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 50826 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50826
 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 38. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 50826 issued to Chvat Health Services, Inc., dba Nuevo Pharmacy, while Jason Scott Chvat has been an officer and owner and had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the licensee was disciplined, Jason Scott Chvat 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 50826 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50826 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 39. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacist License
 No. RPH 53345 issued to Jason Scott Chvat, Jason Scott Chvat shall be prohibited from serving
 as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee

for five years if Pharmacist License Number RPH 53345 is placed on probation or until Pharmacist License Number RPH 53345 is reinstated if it is revoked.

PRAYER

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

- 1. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50826, issued to Respondent Chvat Health Services, Inc., dba Nuevo Pharmacy;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Pharmacist License Number RPH 53345, issued to Respondent Jason Scott Chvat;
- 3. Prohibiting Respondent Chvat Health Services, Inc., dba Nuevo Pharmacy from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50826 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50826 is reinstated if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50826 issued to Respondent Chvat Health Services, Inc., dba Nuevo Pharmacy is revoked;
- 4. Prohibiting Respondent Jason Scott Chvat from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50826 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50826 is reinstated if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 50826 issued to Chvat Health Services, Inc., dba Nuevo Pharmacy is revoked;
- 5. Prohibiting Respondent Jason Scott Chvat from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacist License Number RPH 53345 is placed on probation or until Pharmacist License Number RPH 53345 is reinstated if Pharmacist License Number RPH 53345 issued to Jason Scott Chvat is revoked;
- 6. Ordering Respondents Chvat Health Services, Inc., dba Nuevo Pharmacy and Jason Scott Chvat to pay the Board of Pharmacy the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,

1	7. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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3	DATED: 3/30/18 Cuginia Seed
4	VIRGINIA HEROLD
5	Executive Officer Board of Pharmacy
6	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California Complainant
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