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	BEFORE THE		
8	BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
9	STATE OF CAI	LIFORNIA	
10		·	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Ca	ase No. 4775	
12	,	,	
13	RITE AID PHARMACY #5429	CCUSATION	
14	500 S. Broadway	CCUSATION	
15	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 42331		
16	,		
17	ANNE CHON-YIN CHUNG, 3782 Moore Street		
18	Los Angeles, CA 90066 Original Pharmacist License No. RPH 40932		
19	Original Filamacist Electise 170. Td 11 70752		
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, Department of Consumer Affairs,		
26	2. On or about February 21, 1997, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit		
27	Number PHY 42331 to Rite Aid #5429, located at 500 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, California		
28	90013-2302 (Respondent Rite Aid Pharmacy). The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect		
	1	,	

customer (including size and frequency of orders), the type and size of the customer, and where and to whom the customer distributes its product.

- "(f) The commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or corruption, whether the act is committed in the course of relations as a licensee or otherwise, and whether the act is a felony or misdemeanor or not.
- "(g) Knowingly making or signing any certificate or other document that falsely represents the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts.
- "(h) The administering to oneself, of any controlled substance, or the use of any dangerous drug or of alcoholic beverages to the extent or in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to oneself, to a person holding a license under this chapter, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by the license.
- "(i) Except as otherwise authorized by law, knowingly selling, furnishing, giving away, or administering or offering to sell, furnish, give away, or administer any controlled substance to an addict.
- "(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.
  - "(p) Actions or conduct that would have warranted denial of a license.
- "(q) Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert an investigation of the board.
- "(r) The selling, trading, transferring, or furnishing of drugs obtained pursuant to Section 256b of Title 42 of the United States Code to any person a licensee knows or reasonably should

have known, not to be a patient of a covered entity, as defined in paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Section 256b of Title 42 of the United States Code.

- "(s) The clearly excessive furnishing of dangerous drugs by a wholesaler to a pharmacy that primarily or solely dispenses prescription drugs to patients of long-term care facilities. Factors to be considered in determining whether the furnishing of dangerous drugs is clearly excessive shall include, but not be limited to, the amount of dangerous drugs furnished to a pharmacy that primarily or solely dispenses prescription drugs to patients of long-term care facilities, the previous ordering pattern of the pharmacy, and the general patient population to whom the pharmacy distributes the dangerous drugs. That a wholesaler has established, and employs, a tracking system that complies with the requirements of subdivision (b) of Section 4164 shall be considered in determining whether there has been a violation of this subdivision. This provision shall not be interpreted to require a wholesaler to obtain personal medical information or be authorized to permit a wholesaler to have access to personal medical information except as otherwise authorized by Section 56 and following of the Civil Code."
- 8. Section 4059 of the Code states, in pertinent part, that a person may not furnish any dangerous drug except upon the prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, veterinarian, or naturopathic doctor pursuant to Section 3640.7. A person may not furnish any dangerous device, except upon the prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, veterinarian, or naturopathic doctor pursuant to Section 3640.7.
  - 9. Section 4081 of the Code states:
- "(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 16000) of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code who maintains a stock of dangerous drugs or dangerous devices.

- "(b) The owner, officer, and partner of any pharmacy, wholesaler, or veterinary food-animal drug retailer shall be jointly responsible, with the pharmacist-in-charge or representative-in-charge, for maintaining the records and inventory described in this section.
- "(c) The pharmacist-in-charge or representative-in-charge shall not be criminally responsible for acts of the owner, officer, partner, or employee that violate this section and of which the pharmacist-in-charge or representative-in-charge had no knowledge, or in which he or she did not knowingly participate."
  - 10. Section 4324 of the Code states:
- "(a) Every person who signs the name of another, or of a fictitious person, or falsely makes, alters, forges, utters, publishes, passes, or attempts to pass, as genuine, any prescription for any drugs is guilty of forgery and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year.
- "(b) Every person who has in his or her possession any drugs secured by a forged prescription shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year."
  - 11. Health and Safety Code section 11200 states in pertinent part:

. . .

"(b) No prescription for a Schedule III or IV substance may be refilled more than five times and in an amount, for all refills of that prescription taken together, exceeding a 120-day supply."

....

12. 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.

13. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1717 subdivision (e), states:

"A pharmacist may transfer a prescription for Schedule III, IV or V controlled substances to another pharmacy for refill purposes in accordance with Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1306.25.

"Prescriptions for other dangerous drugs which are not controlled substances may also be transferred by direct communication between pharmacists or by the receiving pharmacist's access to prescriptions or electronic files that have been created or verified by a pharmacist at the transferring pharmacy. The receiving pharmacist shall create a written prescription; identifying it as a transferred prescription; and record the date of transfer and the original prescription number. When a prescription transfer is accomplished via direct access by the receiving pharmacist, the receiving pharmacist shall notify the transferring pharmacy of the transfer. A pharmacist at the transferring pharmacy shall then assure that there is a record of the prescription as having been transferred, and the date of transfer. Each pharmacy shall maintain inventory accountability and pharmacist accountability and dispense in accordance with the provisions of section 1716 of this Division. Information maintained by each pharmacy shall at least include:

- "(1) Identification of pharmacist(s) transferring information;
- "(2) Name and identification code or address of the pharmacy from which the prescription was received or to which the prescription was transferred, as appropriate;
  - "(3) Original date and last dispensing date;
  - "(4) Number of refills and date originally authorized;
  - "(5) Number of refills remaining but not dispensed;

"(6) Number of refills transferred."

. . . .

14. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1718, states:

"'Current Inventory' as used in Sections 4081 and 4332 of the Business and Professions Code shall be considered to include complete accountability for all dangerous drugs handled by every licensee enumerated in Sections 4081 and 4332.

"The controlled substances inventories required by Title 21, CFR, Section 1304 shall be available for inspection upon request for at least 3 years after the date of the inventory."

15. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1761, subdivision (a), states:

"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."

- 16. Section 4105 of the Code states:
- "(a) All records or other documentation of the acquisition and disposition of dangerous drugs and dangerous devices by any entity licensed by the board shall be retained on the licensed premises in a readily retrievable form.
- "(b) The licensee may remove the original records or documentation from the licensed premises on a temporary basis for license-related purposes. However, a duplicate set of those records or other documentation shall be retained on the licensed premises.
- "(c) The records required by this section shall be retained on the licensed premises for a period of three years from the date of making.
- "(d) Any records that are maintained electronically shall be maintained so that the pharmacist-in-charge, the pharmacist on duty if the pharmacist-in-charge is not on duty, or, in the case of a veterinary food-animal drug retailer or wholesaler, the designated representative on duty, shall, at all times during which the licensed premises are open for business, be able to produce a hard copy and electronic copy of all records of acquisition or disposition or other drug or dispensing-related records maintained electronically.

"(e)(1) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a), (b), and (c), the board, may upon written request, grant to a licensee a waiver of the requirements that the records described in subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) be kept on the licensed premises.

- (2) A waiver granted pursuant to this subdivision shall not affect the board's authority under this section or any other provision of this chapter."
- 17. Section 118, subdivision (b), of the Code provides that the suspension/expiration/surrender/cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board/Registrar/Director of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.
- 18. 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, with failure of the licentiate to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

## CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- 19. **Tylenol with Codeine**, a trade name for a combination of Acetaminophen and Codeine, is a dangerous drug as defined in section 4022 and a Schedule III controlled substance and narcotic as defined by section 11056, subdivision (e) (2), of the Health and Safety Code and a Schedule III controlled substance as defined by section 1308.13 (e) (2) of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Codeine can produce drug dependence of the morphine type, and therefore has the potential for being abused. Tylenol No. 3 contains 30 mg. of codeine phosphate; the maximum 24 hour dosage of codeine phosphate should not exceed 360 mg.
- 20. Norco 10/325, is brand name for Hydrocodone with Acetaminophen. It is a Schedule III controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11056, subdivision (e)(4) and is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

- 21. Vicodin/Vicodin-ES, is brand name for Hydrocodone with Acetaminophen. It is a schedule III controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11056, subdivision (e)(4) and is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 22. **Phenergan with Codine** is a trade name for promethazine HCI. It is a Schedule V controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11058(c)(1) and is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. It is primarily used for cough.
- 23. Valium, is brand name for Diazepam. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d)(9) and is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 24. Xanax, is brand name for Alprazolam. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d)(1) and is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 25. Soma is a brand name for Carisprodol. It is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Its primary indication for use is as a muscle relaxant.
- 26. **Halcion** is a brand name for Triazolam. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d)(30) and is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Its primary indication for use is for anxiety.
- 27. Ambien is a brand name for Zolpidem. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d)(32) and is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Its primary indication for use is for insomnia.
- 28. Suboxone is a brand name for Buprenorphine. It is a Schedule III controlled substance as designated by Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations section 1308.13(e)(2)(i), and is

categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Its primary indication for use is opioid dependence.

- 29. **Ativan**, is brand name for Lorazepam. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d)(16) and is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Its primary indication for use is anxiety.
- 30. **Klonopin** is brand name for Clonazepam. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d)(7) and is categorized as a "dangerous drug," pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Its primary indication for use is anxiety and anticonvulsant.

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Filling of Erroneous or Uncertain Prescriptions and Failure to Assume Co-Responsibility in Legitimacy of a Prescription) (Respondents Rite Aid Pharmacy and Chung)

31. Respondent Rite Aid Pharmacy and Respondent Chung, Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Rite Aid, are subject to under sections 4300 and 4301, subdivision (d) and (o) of the Business and Professions Code, for unprofessional conduct, for violating Health and Safety Code section 11153, subdivision (a) and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1761, subdivision (a), in that Respondents filled and dispensed prescriptions, which were uncertain and ambiguous. It failed to question whether these prescriptions served legitimate purposes and further failed to use its professional judgment to refuse to fill or refill prescriptions presented by patients who presented as habitual doctor shoppers with erroneous/uncertain prescriptions for the following:

# Prescriptions presented to Rite Aid Pharmacy #5429 by customer J.A.

32. Between June 3, 2010 and May 16, 2011, consumer J.A. went to 4 different doctors to obtain prescriptions. He presented the prescriptions to Rite Aid Pharmacy #5429 which were filled for Apap and hydrocodone/apap as follows:

7.5/750 13 days early and filled again on 1/5/2012, 30 day supply.

7.5/750 14 days early.

- On 1/28/2011, consumer B.W. had Rx # 595063 filled for 60 hydrocodone/apap 7.5/750, 30 DS by Dr. M. Nasir.
- On 2/11/2011, consumer B.W. had Rx # 598142 filled for 90 hydrocodone/apap 7.5/750, 30 DS, by Dr. I. Shah. 16 days early.

## SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Non-Complaint Refilling of Controlled Substance Prescriptions ) (Respondents Rite Aid Pharmacy and Chung)

Respondents Rite Aid Pharmacy and Chung, are subject to under sections 4300 and 4301, subdivision (d) and (o) of the Business and Professions Code, for unprofessional conduct, for violating Health and Safety Code section 11200, subd. (b), in that Respondents refilled

exceeded a 120-day supply. The circumstances are as follows:

- On or about 6/2/2010, Rx # 544315 filled for 30 triazolam 0.25, 30 DS for Mr. R.C. and filled on 6/30/2010, 7/26/2010, 8/17/2010, 9/8/2010 and 9/30/2010 for 30 triazolam 0.25, 30 DS for total of 150 days supply.
- 63. On 11/21/2011, Rx # 663197 filled for 60 hydrocodone/apap 10/325 15 DS for Ms. R.P by Dr. A. Sefa. Rx # 663197 was subsequently refilled by Respondent Rite Aid Pharmacy #5429 as follow: On 11/23/2011 for 60 hydrocodone/apap 10/325, 15 DS; on 12/2/2011 for 120 hydrocodone/apap 10/325,30 DS; on 12/19/2011, for 50 hydrocodone/apap 10/325, 12 DS; on 12/24/2011 for 70 hydrocodone/apap 10/325, 17 DS; on 12/26/2011 for 120 hydrocodone/apap 10/325, 30 DS; on 1/2/2012 for 50 hydrocodone/apap 10/325, 12 DS; on 1/9/2012 for 50 hydrocodone/apap 10/325, 12 Day; and on 1/26/2012 for 20 hydrocodone/apap 10/325, 5 DS. In total, Rx # 663197 filled 8 times for a total of 148 days supply.

# THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Non-Compliant Transferring of a Controlled Substance Prescription) (Respondents Rite Aid and Chung)

Respondents Rite Aid Pharmacy and Chung, are subject to discipline under sections 4300 and 4301, subdivision (d) and (o) of the Business and Professions Code, for unprofessional

conduct, for violating title 16, section 1717, subdivision (e), in that Respondent Rite Aid

Pharmacy transferred prescriptions for Schedule III, IV or V controlled substances to another for
refill that did not include the requisite information required under Title 21, Code of Federal

Regulations, section 1306.25. The circumstances were as follows:

- 65. On or about Rite Aid Pharmacy #5429, located at 500 S. Broadway in Los Angeles, CA. 90013 transferred prescriptions from other pharmacies on the following dates and prescription numbers:
- a. As to Rx # 491888, dated August 17, 2009, for 120 Norco 7.5/325 for Ms. A.L., a copy of the prescription was faxed from Rite Aid #5345, Portland Oregon. It did not contain the identification of the pharmacist transferring the information, the name and address of both pharmacies, the last dispensing date, the number of refills remaining but not dispensed, nor the number of refills transferred.
- b. As to Rx # 550442, dated June 22, 2010, for Ms. A.L. for 120 Hydrocodone/apap 7.5/325, a notation was included that stated transferred Rx # 426595 from 5345 only. It did not contain the identification of the pharmacist transferring the information, the name and address of both pharmacies, the last dispensing date, the number of refills remaining but not dispensed, nor the number of refills transferred.
- c. As to Rx # 601131, dated February 28, 2011, for Ms. A.L. for 84 Hydrocodone/apap 7.5/325, a notation stated transferred Rx # 426595 from 5345 only. It did not contain the identification of the pharmacist transferring the information, the name and address of both pharmacies, the last dispensing date, the number of refills remaining but not dispensed, nor the number of refills transferred.
- d. As to Rx # 640471, dated August 26, 2011, for Ms. A.L. for 120 Hydrocodone/apap 7.5/325, a notation stated transferred Rx # 446599 from 5345 only. It did not contain the identification of the pharmacist transferring the information, the name and address of both pharmacies, the last dispensing date, the number of refills remaining but not dispensed, nor the number of refills transferred.

1	4. Ordering Anne Chon-Yin Chung to pay the Board of Pharmacy the reasonable costs	
2	of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code	
3	section 125.3;	
4	5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.	
5		
6		
7	DATED: 3/14/14 / Jugina Held	
8	VIRGINIA HEROLD Executive Officer	
9	Board of Pharmacy Department of Consumer Affairs State of California	
0	State of California  Complainant	
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