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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 4346

PRIORITY PHARMACEUTICALS INC.

4040 Sorrento Valley Blvd., Suite D San Diego, CA 92121 David Zeiger, President, Pharmacist License No. RPH 26202

Wholesaler License No. WLS 5145

and

JANET LEE MARSH 30842 Wisteria Circle Murrieta, CA 92563

Designated Representative No. EXC 17770

Respondents.

OAH No. 2014020535

STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER AS TO JANET LEE MARSH ONLY

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is here by adopted by the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This decision shall become effective on March 13, 2015.

It is so ORDERED on March 6, 2015.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By

STAN C. WEISSER, Board President

& C. Wusi

	. [
1	Kamala D. Harris					
2	Attorney General of California GREGORY J. SALUTE					
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General DESIREE I. KELLOGG					
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 126461	•				
	JONATHAN I. LAPIN					
5	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 126461	•				
6	110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101					
7	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266					
8	Telephone: (619) 645-2996 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061					
9	Attorneys for Complainant					
10	BEFORE THE					
11	DEPARTMENT OF C	PHARMACY CONSUMER AFFAIRS				
12	STATE OF C	CALIFORNIA				
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 4346				
14	PRIORITY PHARMACEUTICALS INC.	OAH No. 2014020535				
15	4040 Sorrento Valley Blvd., Suite D San Diego, CA 92121	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF				
16	DAVID ZEIGER, President, Pharmacist License No. RPH 26202	LICENSE AND ORDER AS TO JANET LEE MARSH ONLY				
17	Wholesaler License No. WLS 5145					
18	and					
19	JANET LEE MARSH					
20	30842 Wisteria Circle Murrieta, CA 92563					
21	Designated Representative No. EXC 17770					
22	Respondents.					
23		ı				
24	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-					
25	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:					
26	PAR	TIES				
27	1. Virginia Herold (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy.					
28	She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by Kamala					

- D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Desiree I. Kellogg, Deputy Attorney General Jonathan I. Lapin, Deputy Attorney General.
- 2. Janet Lee Marsh (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney John A. Cronin and Peter S. Gregorovic of Fredrickson, Mazeika & Grant, LLP, whose address is 5720 Oberlin Drive, San Diego, CA 92121.
- 3. On or about December 3, 2007, the Board of Pharmacy issued Designated Representative License No. EXC 17770 to Janet Lee Marsh (Respondent). The Designated Representative License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 4346 and will expire on January 1, 2016, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 4346 was filed before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on September 17, 2012.

Respondent timely filed its Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 4346 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 4346. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

<u>CULPABILITY</u>

- 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 4346, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Designated Representative License.
- 9. While Respondent believes that a significant legal issue exists with respect to statutory interpretation of Business and Professions Code section 4126.5, solely for the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie case for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.
- 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation it enables the Board to issue an order accepting the voluntary surrender of her Designated Representative License without further process.

CONTINGENCY

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Pharmacy. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Pharmacy may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement.

It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Designated Representative License No. EXC 17770 issued to Respondent Janet Lee Marsh, is surrendered and accepted by the Board of Pharmacy.

- 1. The voluntary surrender of Respondent's Designated Representative License and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board of Pharmacy.
- 2. Respondent shall relinquish and therefore lose all rights and privileges as a Designated Representative (Exemptee) in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her pocket license and, if one was issued, her wall certificates on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If Respondent ever applies for licensure or petitions for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a new application for licensure. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for licensure in effect at the time the application or petition is filed, and while Respondent believes that a significant legal issue exists with respect to the statutory interpretation of Business and Professions Code section 4126.5, she acknowledges that Complainant established a prima facie case for the all of the charges in Accusation No. 4346 and that those charges constitute cause for discipline when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the application or petition.
- 5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of

California, while Respondent believes that a significant legal issue exists with respect to the statutory interpretation of Business and Professions Code section 4126.5, she acknowledges that Complainant established a prima facie case for the all of the charges in Accusation No. 4346 and that those charges constitute cause for discipline all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation. No. 4346 for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

6. Respondent may not apply, reapply, or petition for any resident licensure or registration of the Board for three (3) years from the effective date of the Decision and Order.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, John Cronin. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Designated Representative License. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.

DATED: 1/28/15 JANET LEE MARSH
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Janet Lee Marsh the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and content,

DATED: 1/28/2015 JOHN CROND

JOHN A. CRONIN Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

	A. Y. Malandari	1/24/	Respectfully submitted,
1	DATED:	1/2/13	
2			KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California
3			Attorney General of California GREGORY J. SALUTE Supervising Deputy Attorney General JONATHAN I. LAPIN Deputy Attorney General
4			JONATHAN I. LAPIN Deputy Attorney General
5			
6			DESIREE KELLOGS
7			DESIRER / KELLOGO Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant
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Stipulated Surrender of License (Case No. 4346)

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 4346

.1	Kamala D. Harris	•				
2	Attorney General of California FRANK H. PACOE					
	Supervising Deputy Attorney General					
3	JOSHUA A. ROOM Deputy Attorney General					
4	State Bar No. 214663 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000					
5	San Francisco, CA 94102-7004 Telephone: (415) 703-1299					
6	Facsimile: (415) 703-5480 Attorneys for Complainant					
7	BEFORE THE					
8	BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
9	SIALLOF	LALIFORNIA				
10	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 4346				
11	PRIORITY PHARMACEUTICALS INC. 4040 Sorrento Valley Blvd., Suite D					
12	San Diego, CA 92121	ACCUSATION				
13	DAVID ZEIGER, President, Pharmacist License No. RPH 26202					
14	Wholesaler License No. WLS 5145					
15	and					
16	JANET LEE MARSH					
17	30842 Wisteria Circle Murrieta, CA 92563					
18	Designated Representative No. EXC 17770					
19	Respondents.					
20	Complainant alleges:					
21	<u>PAR</u>	TIES				
22	1. Virginia Herold (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity					
23	as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs.					
24	2. On or about December 3, 2007, the Board issued Wholesaler License No. WLS 5145					
25	to Priority Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Respondent Priority). The License was in effect at all times					
26	relevant herein and will expire December 1, 2012, unless renewed. Since on or about December					
27	3, 2007, David Zeiger, Pharmacist License No. RPH 26202, has been President of Respondent					
28	Priority. Business and Professions Code section	4307 is applicable herein.				
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On or about January 4, 2005, the Board issued Designated Representative License 3. No. EXC 17770 to Janet Lee Marsh (Respondent Marsh). The License was in effect at all times relevant herein and will expire January 1, 2013, unless renewed. Since on or about December 3, 2007, Respondent Marsh has been Designated Representative in Charge for Respondent Priority.

JURISDICTION

- This Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of 4. Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
- Section 4011 of the Code provides that the Board shall administer and enforce both 5. the Pharmacy Law [Bus. & Prof. Code, § 4000 et seq.] and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act [Health & Safety Code, § 11000 et seq.].
- Section 4300(a) of the Code provides that every license issued by the Board may be suspended or revoked.
- 7. Section 118(b) of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the suspension, expiration, surrender, or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Section 4402(e) of the Code provides that any non-pharmacist license issued by the Board may be canceled if not renewed within 60 days after expiration, and any license canceled in this fashion may not be reissued but will instead require a new application to seek reissuance.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 8. Section 4301 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of "unprofessional conduct," defined to include, but not be limited to, any of the following:
- (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.

- (j) The violation of any of the statutes of this state, of 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.
- 9. Section 4043 of the Code, in pertinent part, defines "wholesaler" to mean and include "a person who acts as a wholesale merchant, broker, jobber, customs broker, reverse distributor, agent, or a nonresident wholesaler, who sells for resale, or negotiates for distribution, or takes possession of, any drug or device included in Section 4022."
- 10. Section 4160 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that a wholesaler license shall be required for a person or entity to act as a wholesaler, that every wholesaler shall be supervised or managed by a Designated Representative in Charge, and that the Designated Representative in Charge shall be responsible for the wholesaler's compliance with state and federal laws.
 - 11. Section 4126.5, subdivision (a), of the Code states:
 - "(a) A pharmacy may furnish dangerous drugs only to the following:
- (1) A wholesaler owned or under common control by the wholesaler from whom the dangerous drug was acquired.
 - (2) The pharmaceutical manufacturer from whom the dangerous drug was acquired.
 - (3) A licensed wholesaler acting as a reverse distributor.
- (4) Another pharmacy or wholesaler to alleviate a temporary shortage of a dangerous drug that could result in the denial of health care. A pharmacy furnishing dangerous drugs pursuant to this paragraph may only furnish a quantity sufficient to alleviate the temporary shortage.
- (5) A patient or to another pharmacy pursuant to a prescription or as otherwise authorized by law.
- (6) A health care provider that is not a pharmacy but that is authorized to purchase dangerous drugs.
 - (7) To another pharmacy under common control."

22.

12. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1783, subdivision (d) provides, in pertinent part, that a manufacturer or wholesaler shall not accept payment for, or allow the use of an entity's credit to establish an account for, the purchase of dangerous drugs or devices from any person other than the owner(s) or executive officer(s) listed on the permit, on a permit's account.

COST RECOVERY

13. 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 of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed its reasonable costs of investigation and enforcement.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 14. For a period of time that included but was not necessarily limited to dates on and/or between January 2009 and December 2011, Respondents were engaged in a business practice that involved the purchase of dangerous drugs from various pharmacies throughout California and the re-sale of those dangerous drugs to wholesalers and pharmacies within and outside California.
- 15. During that time period, Respondents made purchases from at least fifty (50) different California pharmacies, on at least five hundred (500) occasions. Respondent Priority was not the wholesaler that had supplied the dangerous drugs to any of these pharmacies. Over thirty-five (35) different dangerous drugs were purchased from California pharmacies by Respondents.
- 16. During and/or prior to that time period, Respondents solicited pharmacies to supply Respondents with dangerous drugs that Respondents would identify to the pharmacies by daily, weekly, or occasional lists of dangerous drugs (with dosages and strengths) titled "ITEMS WE ARE LOOKING FOR" and/or "ADDITIONAL ITEMS WE ARE INTERESTED IN." At the direction and/or pursuant to the encouragement of Respondents, the pharmacies would acquire the dangerous drugs listed by Respondents, typically from the pharmacies' primary wholesaler(s). The drugs acquired by the client pharmacies would then be re-sold to Respondent Priority.

¹ For the purposes of this Accusation, "primary wholesaler" refers to the wholesaler from which the pharmacy purchased the bulk of its dangerous drugs, and/or with which the pharmacy enjoyed a contractual relationship giving the pharmacy an "account" with the wholesaler. Most if not all pharmacies establish a "primary wholesaler" account relationship with a single wholesaler. The pharmacy is issued an account number to use in ordering from the primary wholesaler.

- 17. All of the client pharmacies utilized by Respondents were community pharmacies, yet all or nearly all of the drugs that were purchased by these pharmacies and re-sold to Respondents were drugs primarily used in hospital or other urgent-care environments. The client pharmacies were purchasing agents for Respondents, buying drugs for Respondents, not their own patients. None of the client pharmacies were licensed by the Board as wholesalers.
- 18. Respondents offered and/or paid the client pharmacies a premium, typically at least ten (10) percent over invoice (the price at which the pharmacy acquired the drug), plus shipping.
- 19. At least twenty (20) of the pharmacies eventually turned over their ordering privileges with their primary wholesaler(s) to Respondents, such that Respondents were able to just submit orders directly to the primary wholesaler(s), using the client pharmacies' account information.
- 20. Respondents re-sold the drugs that were acquired from pharmacies to wholesalers and pharmacies within and outside California, often at a substantial markup. A sampling of over fifty (50) purchase and re-sale transactions revealed an average markup of two hundred thirteen (213) percent, with individual transactions showing markups as high as 3166%, 3255%, and 6363%.
- 21. Respondents re-sold a portion of the dangerous drugs acquired from pharmacies to other wholesalers. On at least one occasion, Respondents misrepresented and/or omitted such a re-sale or transfer. By way of a transaction on or about August 5, 2011, Respondents invoiced a purchase of a dangerous drug from a Garfield Pharmacy, located in Beverly Hills, CA. However, the shipping label that Respondents provided to Garfield Pharmacy for shipment of the drug to a customer located in Cordova, TN represented that the shipment was coming not from Respondent Priority but from another wholesaler (Vital Healthcare LLC) located in Savannah, GA.

CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINE, AS TO BOTH RESPONDENTS

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Acts Involving Moral Turpitude, Dishonesty, Fraud, Deceit, or Corruption)

22. Respondent(s) are each and severally subject to discipline under section(s) 4301, 4301(f), and/or 4160 of the Code, in that, as described in paragraphs 14 to 21, Respondent(s) committed acts involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or corruption.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Making or Signing Document(s) Falsely Representing Existence or Nonexistence of Facts)

23. Respondent(s) are each and severally subject to discipline under section(s) 4301, 4301(g), and/or 4160 of the Code, in that, as described in paragraphs 14 to 21, Respondent(s) made or signed one or more certificates or other documents falsely representing the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violation of Law(s))

24. Respondent(s) are each and severally subject to discipline under section(s) 4301, 4301(j), 4301(o), and/or 4160 of the Code, in that, as described in paragraphs 14 to 21, Respondent(s) violated statutes of this state regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs, and/or violated/attempted to violate, directly or indirectly, assisted in or abetted the violation of, or conspired to violate, the laws governing pharmacy, when Respondent(s) solicited, encouraged, assisted in, abetted, or conspired toward, transaction(s) violating section 4160 of the Code, in that the client pharmacies that purchased dangerous drugs on behalf of Respondent(s), and/or sold dangerous drugs to Respondent(s) for re-sale, by so doing acted as unlicensed wholesalers.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violation of Law(s))

25. Respondent(s) are each and severally subject to discipline under section(s) 4301, 4301(j), 4301(o), and/or 4160 of the Code, in that, as described in paragraphs 14 to 21, Respondent(s) violated statutes of this state regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs, and/or violated/attempted to violate, directly or indirectly, assisted in or abetted the violation of, or conspired to violate, the laws governing pharmacy, when Respondent(s) solicited, encouraged, assisted in, abetted, or conspired toward, transaction(s) violating section 4126.5 of the Code, by purchasing dangerous drugs from and/or on behalf of pharmacies under unauthorized conditions.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violation of Law(s))

Respondent(s) are each and severally subject to discipline under section(s) 4301, 4301(j), 4301(o), and/or 4160 of the Code, in that, as described in paragraphs 14 to 21, Respondent(s) violated statutes of this state regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs, and/or violated/attempted to violate, directly or indirectly, assisted in or abetted the violation of, or conspired to violate, the laws governing pharmacy, when Respondent(s) solicited, encouraged, assisted in, abetted, or conspired toward, transaction(s) violating California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1783, subdivision (d), by causing the purchase of dangerous drugs by one or more client pharmacies from a primary wholesaler on a pharmacy account controlled by Respondents.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

27. Respondents are each and severally subject to discipline under section 4301 of the Code, in that the acts described in paragraphs 14 to 26 constitute unprofessional conduct.

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 Wholesaler License No. WLS 5145, issued to Priority Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Respondent Priority);
- 2. Revoking or suspending Designated Representative License No. EXC 17770, issued to Janet Lee Marsh (Respondent Marsh);
- 3. Ordering Respondents to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;

1	4. Taking such other and further action as is deemed necessary and proper.			
2	DATED:	9/14/12	()	
3	DATED:	1////-	VIRGINIA HEROLD Executive Officer	
4			VIRGINIA HEROLD Executive Officer Board of Pharmacy Department of Consumer Affairs State of California	
5			State of California Complainant	
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