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

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:

MCKESSON CORPORATION, dba MCKESSON DRUG COMPANY, Wholesale Permit No. WLS 3076;

and

JOHN F. BOHLINGER,
Designated Representative License No. EXC 17318,

Respondents

Agency Case No. 6850

OAH No. 2021050035

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby adopted by the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2022.

It is so ORDERED on February 22, 2022.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Seung W. Oh, Pharm.D.

**Board President** 

1	ROB BONTA		
2	Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General CHRISTINA THOMAS Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 171168 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6297		
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6	Facsimile: (916) 731-2126  Attorneys for Complainant		
7	Thiorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFOR BOARD OF F		
9	DEPARTMENT OF CO	ONSUMER AFFAIRS	
10	STATE OF C.	ALIFORNIA	
11			
12	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 6850	
13	MCKESSON CORPORATION, DBA	OAH No. 2021050035	
14	MCKESSON DRUG COMPANY 9501 Norwalk Boulevard	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER FOR PUBLIC	
15	Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 Designated Representative No. EXC 17318,	REPROVAL (AS TO JOHN F. BOHLINGER, ONLY)	
16	and	[Bus. & Prof. Code § 495]	
17 18	JOHN F. BOHLINGER 9501 Norwalk Blvd.		
19	Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 Designated Representative No. EXC 17318		
20	Respondents.		
21			
22		EED by and between the parties to the above-	
23	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	e true:	
24	PART	ΓΙΕΣ	
25	1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) is the	Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy	
26	(Board). She brought this action solely in her offi	icial capacity and is represented in this matter by	
27	Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of Calif	Fornia, by Christina Thomas, Deputy Attorney	
28	General.		
		1	

2. Respondent John F. Bohlinger is represented in this proceeding by attorney Alissa Brice Castaneda, whose address is: Quarles & Brady LLP One Renaissance Square Two North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004-2391

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. On or about January 21, 2004, the Board issued Designated Representative License No. EXC 17318 to John F. Bohlinger. The Designated Representative License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in First Amended Accusation No. 6850 and will expire on January 1, 2023, unless renewed.
- 4. First Amended Accusation No. 6850 was filed before the Board of Pharmacy,
  Department of Consumer Affairs and is currently pending against Respondent. The First
  Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on
  Respondent on January 4, 2021. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the
  First Amended Accusation. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 6850 is attached as exhibit
  A and incorporated herein by reference.

# <u>ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS</u>

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 6850. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his 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.

#### **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent denies the allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 6850.
- 9. For the purpose of resolving the First Amended Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.
- 10. Respondent agrees that his Designated Representative is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Disciplinary Order below.

#### **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 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his 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 Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval 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 Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval 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 Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval 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 Disciplinary Order:

#### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Designated Representative License No. EXC 17318 issued to Respondent John F. Bohlinger shall be publicly reproved by the Board of Pharmacy under Business and Professions Code section 495 in resolution of First Amended Accusation No. 6850, attached as exhibit A.

Coursework. No later than six months from the effective date of the public reproval,
Respondent, at his own expense, shall enroll, successfully complete and submit verification of a
six- hour course relevant to the Drug Supply Chain Security as specified by the Board.
Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course.
Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above-required course.

**Full Compliance**. As a resolution of the charges in First Amended Accusation No. 6850, this stipulated settlement is contingent upon Respondent's full compliance with all conditions of this Order. If Respondent fails to satisfy any of these conditions, such failure to comply constitutes cause for discipline, including outright revocation, of Respondent's Designated Representative License No. EXC 17318.

#### **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Alissa Brice Castaneda. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Designated Representative License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.

1	DATED:	
2	JOHN F. BOHLINGER Respondent	
3	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent the terms and conditions and other matter	
4	contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval. I	
5	approve its form and content.	
6	DATED:	
7	ALISSA BRICE CASTANEDA Attorney for Respondent	
8		
9	ENDORSEMENT	
10	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby	
11	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of	
12	Consumer Affairs.	
13	DATED.	
14	DATED: Respectfully submitted,  ROB BONTA	
15	Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK	
16	Shawn P. Cook Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
17		
18	Christina Thomas	
19	Deputy Attorney General  Attorneys for Complainant	
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1	DATED: 12/17/21	John Bollon
2	11	OHN F. BOHLINGER spondent
3	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent the terms and conditions and other matter	
4	contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval. I	
. 5	approve its form and content.	Alisse Brise Castanedo
6	DATED: 12/17/2021	
7		LISSA BRICE CASTANEDA torney for Respondent
8		
9	EN	DORSEMENT
10	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement	and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby
11	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of	
12	Consumer Affairs.	
13		
14	DATED: December 17, 2021	Respectfully submitted,
15		ROB BONTA Attorney General of California
16		SHAWN P. COOK Supervising Deputy Attorney General
17	*	CT
18		CHRISTINA THOMAS
19		Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant
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# Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 6850

1	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California		
2	Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General CHRISTINA THOMAS Deputy Attorney General		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 171168 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702		
5	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6297		
6	Facsimile: (916) 731-2126 Attorneys for Complainant		
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9	DEPARTMENT OF CO	ONSUMER AFFAIRS	
10	STATE OF C.	ALIFORNIA	
11			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6850	
13	MCKESSON CORPORATION, DBA MCKESSON DRUG COMPANY		
14	9501 S. Norwalk Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION	
15	Wholesale Permit No. WLS 3076,		
16	and		
17	JOHN F. BOHLINGER		
18	9501 Norwalk Blvd. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670		
19	Designated Representative No. EXC 17318		
20	Respondents.		
21			
22			
23	PART		
24		s this First Amended Accusation solely in her	
25	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the B	oard of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer	
26	Affairs.		
27		rd of Pharmacy issued Wholesale Permit	
28	Number WLS 3076 to McKesson Corporation, dba McKesson Drug Company (Respondent		
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- 16. Phenergan with Codeine Syrup 6.25 mg 10 mg / 5 ml is the brand name for promethazine with codeine syrup 6.25 mg-10 mg / 5 ml (P/C), a Schedule V controlled substance designated by California Health and Safety Code section 11058(c)(1) and a dangerous drug designated by California Business and Professions Code section 4022. It is used to treat coughing.
- 17. Xanax is the brand name for alprazolam, a Schedule IV controlled substance designated by California Health and Safety Code section 11057(d)(1) and a dangerous drug designated by California Business and Professions Code section 4022. It is used to treat anxiety.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS - CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY

- 18. At all times relevant herein, the Children's Medical Center Pharmacy, also known as the Rady Children's Outpatient Pharmacy (Rady Pharmacy), was part of the Rady Children's Hospital of San Diego. According to its website, it is the only hospital in the San Diego area dedicated exclusively to pediatric healthcare.
- 19. Between May 7, 2017 and June 26, 2018, the Rady Pharmacy could not account for an inventory shortage of approximately 119 pints of P/C and 5,300 tablets of alprazolam 2mg. A pharmacy technician at the Rady Pharmacy had stolen these dangerous drugs and controlled substances for herself and her friends.

### Promethazine with codeine syrup 6.25 mg-10 mg / 5 ml (P/C)

- 20. Based on Lexicomp Online, a collection of clinical database and clinical decision support tools, P/C is not recommended in pediatrics due to risk of adverse effects, such as slowed or difficult breathing, misuse, abuse, addiction, overdose, and death.
- 21. According to the pharmacy manager, the Rady Pharmacy did not use or dispense P/C because pediatric doctors did not prescribe P/C to children. On the rare occasion the doctor prescribed P/C, it would be during the winter season according to the pharmacy manager.
- 22. According to Respondent McKesson's sales records, Respondent McKesson sold, on average, less than two 16-ounce bottles of P/C <u>per vear</u> to the Rady Pharmacy between January 2014 and August 2017. Beginning in September 2017, the sales of P/C displayed an irregular pattern compared to the previous ordering pattern:

14 | Alpraz

P/C Sold from Respondent McKesson to the Rady Pharmacy	
Date	Bottles (16oz) of P/C Sold
September 2017	11
October 2017	7
November 2017	7
December 2017	10
January 2018	14
February 2018	10
March 2018	15
April 2018	10
May 2018	18
June 2018	17

23. When calculating the monthly percentage change in sales, there were sales of P/C which varied from 40% to 80% more than the sale from the previous month.

24. The orders for P/C beginning in September 2017 were significantly larger and were shipped in consecutive months from September 2017 to June 2018, which totaled approximately 119 pints or 56,287 ml of P/C.

# Alprazolam 2mg

25. Alprazolam is available in dosages of 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, and 2mg.

26. According to Lexicomp Online, alprazolam should be titrated and used at the lowest effective dose. Lexicomp provided the following dosing information: "Children  $\geq$  7 years and Adolescents < 18 years: Limited data available... Initial: 0.005 to 0.02 mg/kg/dose 3 times daily... maximum of 0.02 mg/kg/dose." For example, if a child is 40 kg (about 88 pounds), the dosing range is from 0.2 to 0.8 mg per dose.

27. According to Respondent McKesson's sales records, Respondent McKesson sold, on average, one bottle of 100-count alprazolam 2mg **per year** between January 2014 and September 2017. Beginning in October 2017, the sales of alprazolam 2mg displayed an irregular pattern compared to the previous ordering pattern:

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Alprazolam 2mg Sold from Respondent McKesson to the Rady Pharmacy		
Date	Bottles (100-count) of alprazolam 2mg Sold	
October 2017	7	
November 2017	9	
December 2017	8	
January 2018	4	
February 2018	4	
March 2018	4	
April 2018	0	
May 2018	15	

- 28. When calculating the monthly percentage change in sales, there were sales of alprazolam 2mg which varied from 250% to 275% more than the sale from the previous month.
- 29. The orders for alprazolam 2mg beginning in October 2017 were significantly larger and were shipped in consecutive months (except April 2018) from October 2017 to May 2018, which totaled approximately 5,100 tablets of alprazolam 2 mg.

## **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

(Unprofessional Conduct – Excessive Furnishing of Controlled Substances)

- 30. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subsection (e), in that Respondents clearly and excessively furnished controlled substances in violation of California Health and Safety Code section 11153.5, subsection (a), as follows:
- a. Respondents furnished the Rady Pharmacy one to two pints of P/C in non-consecutive months from January 2014 to August 2017. Sales increased to seven to 18 pints ordered in consecutive months from September 2017 to June 2018.
- b. Respondents furnished the Rady Pharmacy 100 to 200 tablets of alprazolam
   2mg in non-consecutive months from January 2014 to September 2017. Sales increased to 400 to
   1,500 tablets ordered in consecutive months from October 2017 to May 2018 (except April 2018).
- c. Respondents furnished the Rady Pharmacy large quantities of controlled substances (P/C and alprazolam 2mg) that are not typically distributed to pediatric patients.
- d. The P/C and alprazolam 2mg furnished by Respondents were not dispensed to patients for legitimate medical purposes but were diverted by a pharmacy technician.

Paragraphs 18 to 29 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

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1	5. Taking such other and fu	orther action as deemed necessary and proper.
2 3	DATED:	Signature on File
4	DATES.	ANNE SODERGREN Executive Officer
5		Board of Pharmacy Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
6		State of California  Complainant
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	(MCKESSON CORPORATION, DBA	MCKESSON DRUG COMPANY and JOHN F. BOHLINGER) FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION