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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

GLENCO MED INC., DBA REMEDY DRUGS, MELINA KHALAJ, PRESIDENT,

Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 42129;

and

MELINA ISSAKHANIAN, AKA MELINA KHALAJ,

Pharmacy Technician License No. TCH 14187;

Respondents.

Agency Case No. 6951

OAH No. 2021050361

#### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order 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 January 5, 2022.

It is so ORDERED on December 6, 2021.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Seung W. Oh, Pharm D. Board President

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1	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California	
2	Attorney General of California NANCY A. KAISER	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General MELISSA TYNER	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 269649	
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013	
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6314 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126	
7	E-mail: Melissa.Tyner@doj.ca.gov  Attorneys for Complainant	
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9	BEFOR BOARD OF P	
10	DEPARTMENT OF CO STATE OF C	
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12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6951
13	GLENCO MED INC., DBA REMEDY DRUGS, MELINA KHALAJ, PRESIDENT	OAH No. 2021050361
14	1700 W. Glenoaks Blvd. Glendale, CA 91201	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER OF GLENCO
15	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 42129,	MED INC., DBA REMEDY DRUGS ONLY
16	and	
17 18 19	MELINA ISSAKHANIAN, AKA MELINA KHALAJ 1812 Foothill Drive Glendale, CA 91201	
20	Pharmacy Technician License No. TCH 14187,	
21 22	Respondents.	
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25	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGR	EED by and between the parties to the above-
	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	e true:
26	PART	<u> TIES</u>
27	1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) is the	Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy
28	(Board). She brought this action solely in her offi	cial capacity and is represented in this matter by
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Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Melissa Tyner, Deputy Attorney General.

- Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs, Melina Khalaj, President (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Herb Weinburg, whose address is: 1990 S Bundy Drive, Suite 777, Los Angeles, CA 90025.
- 3. On or about September 8, 2003, the Board issued Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 42129 to Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs, Melina Khalaj, President (Respondent). The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 6951 and will expire on September 1, 2022, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. 6951 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on March 16, 2021. Respondent timely filed its Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 6951 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. 6951. 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 its 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 them; the right to present evidence and to testify on its 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.

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#### **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 6951, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon its Pharmacy Permit.
- 9. 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 factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up their right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.
- 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation Respondent enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of its Pharmacy Permit without further process.

#### **CONTINGENCY**

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent or its counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that it may not withdraw its 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 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 Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 42129, issued to Respondent Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs, Melina Khalaj, President, is surrendered and accepted by the Board. The effective date of the Decision shall be stayed 120 days after the effective date of Order adopting this Stipulated Surrender, at which time the pharmacy shall be sold or closed.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Pharmacy Permit and the acceptance of the surrendered permit 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.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a pharmacy in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board its wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If it 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 all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 6951 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the application or petition. Respondent is required to report this surrender as disciplinary action. Respondent may not apply for any license, permit, or registration from the Board for three years from the effective date of this decision.
- 5. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$35,000.00. Respondent shall pay \$17,500.00 in costs within thirty (30) days of the

effective date of the Decision and Order. Respondent shall pay the remaining \$17,500.00 in costs prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license. Respondent and Melina Issakhanian aka Melina Khalaj shall be jointly and severally liable for payment of these costs.

- 6. 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, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation, No. 6951 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.
- 7. In the event the pharmacy is not sold, Respondent shall, within ten (10) days of the effective date, arrange for the destruction of, the transfer to, sale of or storage in a facility licensed and approved by the board of all controlled substances and dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices. Respondent shall further arrange for the transfer of all records of acquisition and disposition of dangerous drugs to premises licensed and approved by the board. Respondent shall further provide written proof of such disposition and submit a completed Discontinuance of Business form according to board guidelines.

Respondent shall also, by the effective date of this decision, arrange for the continuation of care for ongoing patients of the pharmacy by, at minimum, providing a written notice to ongoing patients that specifies the anticipated closing date of the pharmacy and that identifies one or more area pharmacies capable of taking up the patients' care, and by cooperating as may be necessary in the transfer of records or prescriptions for ongoing patients. Within five days of its provision to the pharmacy's ongoing patients, Respondent shall provide a copy of the written notice to the board. For the purposes of this provision, "ongoing patients" means those patients for whom the pharmacy has on file a prescription with one or more refills outstanding, or for whom the pharmacy has filled a prescription within the preceding sixty (60) days.

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6	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>
7	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully
8	discussed it with my attorney Herb Weinburg. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will
9	have on my Pharmacy Permit. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order
10	voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the
11	Board of Pharmacy.
12	
13	DATED:
14	GLENCO MED INC., DBA REMEDY DRUGS, MELINA KHALAJ, PRESIDENT
15	Respondent
16	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs,
17	Melina Khalaj, President the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated
18	Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and content.
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20	DATED:
21	HERB WEINBURG Attorney for Respondent
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6	ACCEPTANCE
7	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully
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11	Board of Pharmacy.
12	10 ha h
13	DATED: 124/2021
14	GLENCO MED INC., DBA REMEDY DRUGS, MEKINA KHALAJ, PRESIDENT
15	Respondent
16	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs,
17	Melina Khalaj, President the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated
18	Surrender of License and Order. 1 approve its form and content.
19	$\mathcal{A}$
20	DATED: 10/29/2021
21	HERB WEINBURG Attorney for Respondent
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1	EN	NDORSEMENT
2	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender	of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted
3	for consideration by the Board of Pharmac	cy of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
4	DATED:	Respectfully submitted,
5		ROB BONTA
6 7		Attorney General of California NANCY A. KAISER Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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9		Melissa Tyner
10		Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant
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### **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. DATED: 11/8/21 ROB BONTA LA2020600819 Prem Stip - Glenco.docx

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney General of California NANCY A. KAISER Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Melissa Tyner

Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

#### Exhibit A

Accusation No. 6951

1	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California	
2	NANCY KAISER Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
3	MELISSA TYNER Deputy Attorney General	
4	State Bar No. 269649 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702	
5	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6314	
6 7	Facsimile: (916) 731-2126 E-mail: Melissa.Tyner@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant	
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9	BEFOR BOARD OF F	
10	DEPARTMENT OF CO STATE OF C	
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12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6951
13	GLENCO MED INC., DBA REMEDY	
14 15	DRUGS, MELINA KHALAJ, PRESIDENT 1700 W. Glenoaks Blvd. Glendale, CA 91201	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION
16	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 42129,	
17	and	
18	MELINA ISSAKHANIAN, AKA MELINA KHALAJ	
19	1812 Foothill Drive Glendale, CA 91201	
20	Pharmacy Technician License No. TCH	
21	14187,	
22	Respondents.	
23		
24	PART	rif <b>c</b>
25		s this Accusation solely in her official capacity
26	as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmac	
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- 2. On or about September 8, 2003, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit
  Number PHY 42129 to Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs, Melina Khalaj, President
  (Respondent Pharmacy). The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to
  the charges brought herein and will expire on September 1, 2021, unless renewed.
- 3. On or about October 24, 1994, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Technician Registration Number TCH 14187 to Melina Issakhanian, aka Melina Khalaj (Respondent Issakhanian). The Pharmacy Technician Registration expired on July 31, 2008, and has not been 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 and Safety Code, § 11000 et seq.].
- 6. Section 4300 states, in pertinent part, that "[e]very license issued 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 PROVISIONS**

- 8. Code section 4059, subdivision (a), states:
- "(a) 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. Code section 4063 states:

"No prescription for any dangerous drug or dangerous device may be refilled except upon authorization of the prescriber. The authorization may be given orally or at the time of giving the original prescription. No prescription for any dangerous drug that is a controlled substance may be designated refillable as needed."

#### 10. Code section 4081, subdivision (a), states:

"(a) All records of manufacture and of sale, acquisition, receipt, shipment, 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, third-party logistics provider, pharmacy, veterinary food-animal drug retailer, outsourcing facility, physician, dentist, podiatrist, veterinarian, laboratory, licensed correctional clinic, as defined in Section 4187, 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."

#### 11. Code section 4105 states, in pertinent part:

"(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.

. . .

(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."

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12. Code section 4301 states, in pertinent part:

"Section 4301 of the Code states:

The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of unprofessional conduct or whose license has been issued by mistake. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

. . .

(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.

. . . . ,,

13. Section 4307, subdivision (a), of the Code 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 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."

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26. The Board audit indicated a negative variance of the following medications indicating Respondent Pharmacy sold (dispensed) a greater amount of medication than it purchased: Ud Restasis 0.05% Eye Emlsn 30 Vials and 60 Vials, Restasis Multidose 0.05% Drp, Dexilant 60mg, Voltaren 1% Gel, and Zetia 10mg Tab.

27. The Board's inspector identified the following dollar amounts Respondent Pharmacy was reimbursed for the identified overages:

Medication	Units	Variance	Price per Unit Paid by Insurance	Total Dollar Amounts Paid by Insurance for the Variances
Ud Restasis	Vials (30 vials in	-2,520	\$9.21	\$(23,207.96)
.05% Eye Emlsn	a box)			
30				
Ud Restasis	Vials (60 vials in	-22,500	\$8.94	\$(201,179.39)
.05% Eye Emlsn	a box)			
60				
Restasis	Multidose	-115	\$527.31	\$(60,640.12)
Multidose .05%	dropper (1			
DRP	dropper)			
Dexilant 60mg	Capsules	-11,490	\$9.21	\$(105,817.27)
Voltaren 1% Gel	Grams (100	-882	\$52.85	\$(46,613.70)
	grams per box)			
Zetia 10mg Tab	Tablet	-750	\$9.92	\$(7,443.49)
Grand Total				\$(444,901.93)

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#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Failure to Maintain Accurate Records of Acquisition and Disposition)

28. Respondent Pharmacy and Respondent Issakhanian are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (o), in conjunction with Code sections 4081 and 4105, and California Code of Regulations section 1718. Specifically, an audit for the period between November 11, 2017 and November 11, 2019 of Respondent Pharmacy revealed an overage (sold more than purchased) of Ud Restasis .05% Eye Emlsn 30 Vials and 60 Vials, Restasis Multidose .05% Drp, Dexilant 60mg, Voltaren 1% Gel and Zetia 10mg Tab. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 24 through 27, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

# FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS: FURNISHING DANGEROUS DRUGS WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION

- 29. On August 22, 2019, the Board received a complaint from Humana regarding Respondent Pharmacy. The complaint alleged Respondent Pharmacy had billed several prescriptions which had the wrong medication, prescriber, quantity, day supply and had dispensed unauthorized prescriptions.
- 30. On November 11, 2019, the Board conducted an inspection of Respondent Pharmacy. The Board's inspector reviewed prescription profile records for AY and ZP between November 11, 2017 and November 11, 2019, as well as its Drug Utilization Report (DUR) for the same period.
- 31. Using the DUR, the Board's inspector contacted the prescribing physicians and confirmed that prescription numbers 6809410 (for Linzess 145mcg, quantity of 270 capsules), 6811757 (Colcrys 0.6mg, quantity of 120), and 6824285 (Dexilant 60mg, quantity of 210) were unauthorized. Further, using the DUR, the Board's inspector determined the dollar amount Respondent Pharmacy was billed for the unauthorized prescriptions, which amounted to \$7,598.40.

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#### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Furnishing Dangerous Drugs without a Prescription)

32. Respondent Pharmacy is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (o), in conjunction with Code sections 4059, subdivision (a), 4063 and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1716. Specifically, during the course of the Board's investigation, it was determined that Respondents had dispensed without prescriber's authorization a prescription (number 6809410) for Linzess 145mcg (quantity of 270 capsules), a prescription (number 6811757) for Colcrys 0.6mg (quantity of 120), and a prescription (number 6824285) for Dexilant 60mg (quantity of 210). Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 29 through 31, inclusive, as though set forth fully herein.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

- 33. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 42129 issued to Respondent Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs, Glenco Med Inc. shall be prohibited from serving as manager, administrator, owner, members, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 42129 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 42129 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 34. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 42129 issued to Respondent Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs for conduct that occurred while Melina Khalaj was a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, partner or other person with management or control of Respondent Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs and had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the license was disciplined, Melina Khalaj shall be prohibited from serving as manager, administrator, owner, members, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 42129 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 42129 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 35. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 42129 issued to Respondent Glenco Med Inc., dba Remedy Drugs for conduct that occurred

1	6. Taking such other and	further action as deemed necessary and proper.
2	10/14/2004	
3	DATED:	Signature on File
4		ANNE SODERGREN Executive Officer
5		Executive Officer Board of Pharmacy Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
6		Complainant
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