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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DBA SANTA MONICA – UCLA MEDICAL CENTER & ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL, Hospital Pharmacy Permit No. HPE 41170;

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DBA SANTA MONICA – UCLA MEDICAL CENTER AND ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL IVAS,

Sterile Compounding Permit No. LSE 99994 (now 101545);

MATTHEW KAZUNORI SASAKI, Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 68915;

and

MARINE MARTA ALTUNYAN,
Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 75760;

Respondents.

Agency Case No. 6987

**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 November 10, 2021.

It is so ORDERED on October 11, 2021.

BOARD OF PHARMACY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By

Seung W. Oh, Pharm.D. Board President

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California KIM KASRELIOVICH Supervising Deputy Attorney General ELAINE YAN Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 277961 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6683 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126 E-mail: Elaine.Yan@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant	
8	BEFORE THE	
9	BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS	
10	STATE OF C.	ALIFORNIA
12		
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6987
14	THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY	
15	OF CALIFORNIA, DBA SANTA MONICA - UCLA MEDICAL CENTER &	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER AS TO
16	ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL 1250 16th Street Santa Monica, CA 90404	RESPONDENT MATTHEW KAZUNORI SASAKI ONLY
17	Hospital Pharmacy Permit No. HPE 41170	
18	THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY	
19	OF CALIFORNIA, DBA SANTA MONICA – UCLA MEDICAL CENTER AND	
20	ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL IVAS 1250 16th Street	
21	Santa Monica, CA 90404	
22	Sterile Compounding Permit No. LSE 99994,	
23	MATTHEW KAZUNORI SASAKI 17528 Daphane Ave.	
24	Torrance, CA 90504  Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH	
<ul><li>25</li><li>26</li></ul>	68915,	
26	and	
28		
-0		1

1 2	MARINE MARTA ALTUNYAN 1636 Sinaloa Ave. Pasadena, CA 91104
3	Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 75760
5	Respondents.
6	
7	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
8	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:
9	<u>PARTIES</u>
10	1. Anne Sodergren is the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy. She brought this
11	action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney
12	General of the State of California, by Elaine Yan, Deputy Attorney General.
13	2. Respondent Matthew Kazunori Sasaki (Sasaki) is represented in this proceeding by
14	attorney Andre Vizcocho, Esq., whose address is: 55 Cetus, 1st Floor, Irvine, CA 92618.
15	3. On or about July 11, 2013, the Board issued Registered Pharmacist License Number
16	RPH 68915 to Matthew Kazunori Sasaki. The Registered Pharmacist License was in full force
17	and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 30, 2023,
18	unless renewed.
19	<u>JURISDICTION</u>
20	4. Accusation No. 6987 was filed before the board and is currently pending against
21	respondent Sasaki. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly
22	served on respondent Sasaki on October 12, 2020. Respondent Sasaki timely filed its Notice of
23	Defense contesting the Accusation.
24	5. A copy of Accusation No. 6987 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by
25	reference.
26	ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS
27	6. Respondent Sasaki has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands
28	the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 6987. Respondent Sasaki has also carefully read,

fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

- 7. Respondent Sasaki is fully aware of his 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 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.
- 8. Respondent Sasaki voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

# **CULPABILITY**

- 9. Respondent Sasaki admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 6987.
- 10. Respondent Sasaki agrees that his Registered Pharmacist License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

## **CONTINGENCY**

Sasaki 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 Sasaki or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, respondent Sasaki 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 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.

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- 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary 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 Settlement and Disciplinary 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 Disciplinary Order:

# **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 68915 to Matthew Kazunori Sasaki is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions:

# 1. Obey All Laws

Respondent shall obey all state and federal laws and regulations.

Respondent shall report any of the following occurrences to the board, in writing, within seventy- two (72) hours of such occurrence:

- an arrest or issuance of a criminal complaint for violation of any provision of the
   Pharmacy Law, state and federal food and drug laws, or state and federal controlled substances laws
- a plea of guilty, or nolo contendere, no contest, or similar, in any state or federal criminal proceeding to any criminal complaint, information or indictment
- a conviction of any crime
- the filing of a disciplinary pleading, issuance of a citation, or initiation of another administrative action filed by any state or federal agency which involves

respondent's license or which is related to the practice of pharmacy or the manufacturing, obtaining, handling, distributing, billing, or charging for any drug, device or controlled substance.

Failure to timely report such occurrence shall be considered a violation of probation.

# 2. Report to the Board

Respondent shall report to the board quarterly, on a schedule as directed by the board or its designee. The report shall be made either in person or in writing, as directed. Among other requirements, respondent shall state in each report under penalty of perjury whether there has been compliance with all the terms and conditions of probation.

Failure to submit timely reports in a form as directed shall be considered a violation of probation. Any period(s) of delinquency in submission of reports as directed may be added to the total period of probation. Moreover, if the final probation report is not made as directed, probation shall be automatically extended until such time as the final report is made and accepted by the board.

### 3. Interview with the Board

Upon receipt of reasonable prior notice, respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the board or its designee, at such intervals and locations as are determined by the board or its designee. Failure to appear for any scheduled interview without prior notification to board staff, or failure to appear for two (2) or more scheduled interviews with the board or its designee during the period of probation, shall be considered a violation of probation.

## 4. Cooperate with Board Staff

Respondent shall timely cooperate with the board's inspection program and with the board's monitoring and investigation of respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of his probation, including but not limited to: timely responses to requests for information by board staff; timely compliance with directives from board staff regarding requirements of any term or condition of probation; and timely completion of documentation pertaining to a term or condition of probation. Failure to timely cooperate shall be considered a violation of probation.

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# 5. Continuing Education

Respondent shall provide evidence of efforts to maintain skill and knowledge as a pharmacist as directed by the board or its designee.

# 6. Reporting of Employment and Notice to Employers

During the period of probation, respondent shall notify all present and prospective employers of the decision in case number 6987 and the terms, conditions and restrictions imposed on respondent by the decision, as follows:

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within ten (10) days of undertaking any new employment, respondent shall report to the board in writing the name, physical address, and mailing address of each of his employer(s), and the name(s) and telephone number(s) of all of his direct supervisor(s), as well as any pharmacist(s)-in-charge, designated representative(s)-in-charge, responsible manager, or other compliance supervisor(s) and the work schedule, if known. Respondent shall also include the reason(s) for leaving the prior employment. Respondent shall sign and return to the board a written consent authorizing the board or its designee to communicate with all of respondent's employer(s) and supervisor(s), and authorizing those employer(s) or supervisor(s) to communicate with the board or its designee, concerning respondent's work status, performance, and monitoring. Failure to comply with the requirements or deadlines of this condition shall be considered a violation of probation.

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within fifteen (15) days of respondent undertaking any new employment, respondent shall cause (a) his direct supervisor, (b) his pharmacist-in-charge, designated representative-in-charge, responsible manager, or other compliance supervisor, and (c) the owner or owner representative of his employer, to report to the board in writing acknowledging that the listed individual(s) has/have read the decision in case number 6987, and terms and conditions imposed thereby. If one person serves in more than one role described in (a), (b), or (c), the acknowledgment shall so state. It shall be the respondent's responsibility to ensure that these acknowledgment(s) are timely submitted to the board. In the event of a change in the person(s) serving the role(s) described in (a), (b), or (c) during the term of probation, respondent shall cause the person(s) taking over the role(s) to report to the board in

writing within fifteen (15) days of the change acknowledging that he or she has read the decision in case number 6987, and the terms and conditions imposed thereby.

If respondent works for or is employed by or through an employment service, respondent must notify the person(s) described in (a), (b), and (c) above at every entity licensed by the board of the decision in case number 6987, and the terms and conditions imposed thereby in advance of respondent commencing work at such licensed entity. A record of this notification must be provided to the board upon request.

Furthermore, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within fifteen (15) days of respondent undertaking any new employment by or through an employment service, respondent shall cause the person(s) described in (a), (b), and (c) above at the employment service to report to the board in writing acknowledging that he or she has read the decision in case number, and the terms and conditions imposed thereby. It shall be respondent's responsibility to ensure that these acknowledgment(s) are timely submitted to the board.

Failure to timely notify present or prospective employer(s) or failure to cause the identified person(s) with that/those employer(s) to submit timely written acknowledgments to the board shall be considered a violation of probation.

"Employment" within the meaning of this provision includes any full-time, part-time, temporary, relief, or employment/management service position as a pharmacist, or any position for which a pharmacist is a requirement or criterion for employment, whether the respondent is an employee, independent contractor or volunteer.

# 7. Notification of Change(s) in Name, Address(es), or Phone Number(s)

Respondent shall further notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of any change in name, residence address, mailing address, e-mail address or phone number.

Failure to timely notify the board of any change in employer, name, address, or phone number shall be considered a violation of probation.

# 8. Restrictions on Supervision and Oversight of Licensed Facilities

During the period of probation, respondent shall not supervise any intern pharmacist, be the pharmacist-in-charge, designated representative-in-charge, responsible manager or other

compliance supervisor of any entity licensed by the board, nor serve as a consultant. Assumption of any such unauthorized supervision responsibilities shall be considered a violation of probation.

## 9. Reimbursement of Board Costs

As a condition precedent to successful completion of probation, respondent shall pay to the board its costs of investigation and prosecution in the amount of \$4,335.13. Respondent shall make said payments as follows: within sixth (6) months from the date of the Decision and Order.

There shall be no deviation from this schedule absent prior written approval by the board or its designee. Failure to pay costs by the deadline(s) as directed shall be considered a violation of probation.

Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the board or its designee, so long as full payment is completed no later than one (1) year prior to the end date of probation.

# 10. **Probation Monitoring Costs**

Respondent shall pay any costs associated with probation monitoring as determined by the board each and every year of probation. Such costs shall be payable to the board on a schedule as directed by the board or its designee. Failure to pay such costs by the deadline(s) as directed shall be considered a violation of probation.

## 11. Status of License

Respondent shall, at all times while on probation, maintain an active, current Registered Pharmacist License with the board, including any period during which suspension or probation is tolled. Failure to maintain an active, current Registered Pharmacist License shall be considered a violation of probation.

If respondent's Registered Pharmacist License expires or is cancelled by operation of law or otherwise at any time during the period of probation, including any extensions thereof due to tolling or otherwise, upon renewal or reapplication respondent's license shall be subject to all terms and conditions of this probation not previously satisfied.

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### 12. License Surrender While on Probation

Following the effective date of this decision, should respondent cease practice due to retirement or health, or be otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may relinquish his license, including any indicia of licensure issued by the board, along with a request to surrender the license. The board or its designee shall have the discretion whether to accept the surrender or take any other action it deems appropriate and reasonable. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender of the license, respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. This surrender constitutes a record of discipline and shall become a part of the respondent's license history with the board.

Upon acceptance of the surrender, respondent shall relinquish his pocket and/or wall license, including any indicia of licensure not previously provided to the board within ten (10) days of notification by the board that the surrender is accepted if not already provided.

Respondent may not reapply for any license from the board for three (3) years from the effective date of the surrender. Respondent shall meet all requirements applicable to the license sought as of the date the application for that license is submitted to the board, including any outstanding costs.

# 13. Practice Requirement – Extension of Probation

Except during periods of suspension, respondent shall, at all times while on probation, be employed as a pharmacist in California for a minimum of 120 hours per calendar month. Any month during which this minimum is not met shall extend the period of probation by one month. During any such period of insufficient employment, respondent must nonetheless comply with all terms and conditions of probation, unless respondent receives a waiver in writing from the board or its designee.

If respondent does not practice as a pharmacist in California for the minimum number of hours in any calendar month, for any reason (including vacation), respondent shall notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of the conclusion of that calendar month. This notification shall include at least: the date(s), location(s), and hours of last practice; the reason(s) for the interruption or reduction in practice; and the anticipated date(s) on which respondent will resume

practice at the required level. Respondent shall further notify the board in writing within ten (10) days following the next calendar month during which respondent practices as a pharmacist in California for the minimum of hours. Any failure to timely provide such notification(s) shall be considered a violation of probation.

It is a violation of probation for respondent's probation to be extended pursuant to the provisions of this condition for a total period, counting consecutive and non-consecutive months, exceeding thirty-six (36) months. The board or its designee may post a notice of the extended probation period on its website.

## 14. Violation of Probation

If respondent has not complied with any term or condition of probation, the board shall have continuing jurisdiction over respondent, and the board shall provide notice to respondent that probation shall automatically be extended, until all terms and conditions have been satisfied or the board has taken other action as deemed appropriate to treat the failure to comply as a violation of probation, to terminate probation, and to impose the penalty that was stayed. The board or its designee may post a notice of the extended probation period on its website.

If respondent violates probation in any respect, the board, after giving respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If a petition to revoke probation or an accusation is filed against respondent during probation, or the preparation of an accusation or petition to revoke probation is requested from the Office of the Attorney General, the board shall have continuing jurisdiction and the period of probation shall be automatically extended until the petition to revoke probation or accusation is heard and decided.

# 15. Completion of Probation

Upon written notice by the board or its designee indicating successful completion of probation, respondent's license will be fully restored.

## 16. Remedial Education

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the board or its designee, for prior approval, an appropriate program of remedial education related to

compounding. The program of remedial education shall consist of at least ten (10) hours per year during the period of probation and at least 50% of the ten (10) hours of remedial education per year must be completed in person or by live webinar. All remedial education shall be in addition to, and shall not be credited toward, continuing education (CE) courses used for license renewal purposes for pharmacists.

Failure to timely submit for approval or complete the approved remedial education shall be considered a violation of probation. The period of probation will be automatically extended until such remedial education is successfully completed and written proof, in a form acceptable to the board, is provided to the board or its designee.

Following the completion of each course, the board or its designee may require the respondent, at his own expense, to take an approved examination to test the respondent's knowledge of the course. If the respondent does not achieve a passing score on the examination that course shall not count towards satisfaction of this term. Respondent shall take another course approved by the board in the same subject area.

### 17. Ethics Course

Within sixty (60) calendar days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at respondent's expense, approved in advance by the board or its designee that complies with Title 16 California Code of Regulations section 1773.5. Respondent shall provide proof of enrollment upon request. Within five (5) days of completion, respondent shall submit a copy of the certificate of completion to the board or its designee. Failure to timely enroll in an approved ethics course, to initiate the course during the first year of probation, to successfully complete it before the end of the second year of probation, or to timely submit proof of completion to the board or its designee, shall be considered a violation of probation.

# 18. Letter of Apology

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the board or its designee a letter of apology regarding the incident that gave rise to the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 6987. Failure to submit the letter of apology shall be considered a violation of probation. The period of probation will be automatically extended until

1	such letter of apology is submitted to the board or its designee in a form acceptable to the board.
2	19. Charitable Donations
3	Within six (6) months of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall make
4	charitable donation(s) in the total amount of \$9,000.00.
5	Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the
6	board or its designee, for prior approval, the organization(s) to which he intends to make the
7	charitable donation(s).
8	Failure to timely submit for approval or make the charitable donation(s) shall be considered
9	a violation of probation. The period of probation will be automatically extended until the
10	charitable donation(s) is made and written proof, in a form acceptable to the board, is provided to
11	the board or its designee.
12	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>
13	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully
14	discussed it with my attorney, Andre Vizcocho, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it
15	will have on my Registered Pharmacist License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and
16	Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the
17	Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.
18	
19	DATED:
20	MATTHEW KAZUNORI SASAKI Respondent
21	I have read and fully discussed with respondent Matthew Kazunori Sasaki the terms and
22	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
23	I approve its form and content.
24	DATED:
25	ANDRE VIZCOCHO, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent
26	///
27	///
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8	Failure to timely submit for approval or make the charitable donation(s) shall be considered	
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18		
19	DATED: 8/12/21 Make Les Soul.	
20	MATTHEW KAZUNORI SASAKI Respondent	
21	I have read and fully discussed with respondent Matthew Kazunori Sasaki the terms and	
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24	DATED:	
25	ANDRE VIZCOCHO, ESQ.  Attorney for Respondent	
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8	Failure to timely submit for approval or make the charitable donation(s) shall be considered		
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17	Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.		
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19	DATED:		
20	MATTHEW KAZUNORI SASAKI Respondent		
21	I have read and fully discussed with respondent Matthew Kazunori Sasaki the terms and		
22	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.		
23	I approve its form and content.		
24	DATED: August 12, 2021		
25	ANDRE VIZCOCHO, ESQ.  Attorney for Respondent		
26			
27			
28			
	12		

1		<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>
2	The foregoing Stipulated Settle	ement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
3	submitted for consideration by the Bo	oard of Pharmacy.
4	DATED:	Respectfully submitted,
5	DATED:	Rob Bonta
6 7		Attorney General of California KIM KASRELIOVICH Supervising Deputy Attorney General
8		Supervising Deputy Futorney General
9		F2 . 77 V
10		ELAINE YAN Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant
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3	submitted for consideration by the Boa	rd of Pharmacy.
4	DATED: 00/12/2021	Dogmootfully, outputted
5	DATED: <u>08/13/2021</u>	Respectfully submitted,  ROB BONTA
6 7		Attorney General of California KIM KASPILIOVICA Supervising Deputy Attorney General
8		Supply vising Bypary, torney seneral
9		Fr. 17 V. 11
10		ELAINE YAN Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant
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# Exhibit A

Accusation No. 6987

1	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California	
2	SHAWN P. COOK Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
3	ELAINE YAN	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 277961	
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013	
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6683 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126	
7	E-mail: Elaine.Yan@doj.ca.gov  Attorneys for Complainant	
8		
9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY	
10	DEPARTMENT OF CON STATE OF CAI	NSUMER AFFAIRS
11	STATE OF CAI	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6987
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14	THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DBA SANTA MONICA - UCLA MEDICAL CENTER &	ACCUSATION
15	ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL 1250 16th Street	Necesimon .
16	Santa Monica, CA 90404	
17	Hospital Pharmacy Permit No. HPE 41170	
18	THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DBA SANTA MONICA –	
19	UCLA MEDICAL CENTER AND ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL IVAS	
20	1250 16th Street	
21	Santa Monica, CA 90404	
22	Sterile Compounding Permit No. LSE 99994,	
23	MATTHEW KAZUNORI SASAKI 17528 Daphane Ave.	
24	Torrance, CA 90504	
25	Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 68915,	
26	and	
27		
28		
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(d) The board may initiate disciplinary proceedings to revoke or suspend any probationary certificate of licensure for any violation of the terms and conditions of probation. Upon satisfactory completion of probation, the board shall convert the probationary certificate to a regular certificate, free of conditions.

- (e) The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Government Code, and the board shall have all the powers granted therein. The action shall be final, except that the propriety of the action is subject to review by the superior court pursuant to Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
  - 9. 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.

10. Section 4402, subsection (a), of the Code provides that any license that is not renewed within three years following its expiration may not be renewed, restored, or reinstated and shall be cancelled by operation of law at the end of the three-year period.

# **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

11. 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:

(c) Gross negligence.

...

(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.

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12. Section 4306.5, subsection (a), of the Code states:

Unprofessional conduct for a pharmacist may include any of the following:

- (a) Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the inappropriate exercise of his or her education, training, or experience as a pharmacist, whether or not the act or omission arises in the course of the practice of pharmacy or the ownership, management, administration, or operation of a pharmacy or other entity licensed by the board.
  - 13. Section 4127.1, subsection (f), of the Code states:
- (f) Adverse effects reported or potentially attributable to a pharmacy's sterile drug product shall be reported to the board within 12 hours and immediately reported to the MedWatch program of the federal Food and Drug Administration.
  - 14. Section 4081, subsection (a), of the Code 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.
  - 15. Section 4307 of the Code states:
- (a) Any person who has been denied a license or whose license has been revoked or is under suspension, or who has failed to renew his or her license while it was under suspension, or who has been a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, partner, or any other person with management or control of any partnership, corporation, trust, 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 manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, partner, or any other person with management or control had knowledge of 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 manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, partner, or in any other position with management or control 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.
- (b) "Manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, partner, or any other person with management or control of a license" as used in this section and Section 4308, may refer to a pharmacist or to any other person who serves in such capacity in or for a licensee.
- (c) The provisions of subdivision (a) may be alleged in any pleading filed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Government Code. However, no order may be issued in that case except as to a person who is named in the caption, as to whom the pleading alleges the applicability of this section, and where the person has been given notice of the proceeding as required by Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Government Code. The authority to proceed as provided by this subdivision shall be in addition to the board's authority to proceed under Section 4339 or any other provision of law.

## **REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

16. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1707.3, states:

Prior to consultation as set forth in section 1707.2, a pharmacist shall review a patient's drug therapy and medication record before each prescription drug is delivered. The review shall include screening for severe potential drug therapy problems.

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17. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1714, subsection (b), states:

Each pharmacy licensed by the board shall maintain its facilities, space, fixtures, and equipment so that drugs are safely and properly prepared, maintained, secured and distributed. The pharmacy shall be of sufficient size and unobstructed area to accommodate the safe practice of pharmacy.

- 18. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1735.3, states:
- (a) For each compounded drug preparation, pharmacy records shall include:
- (1) The master formula document.
- (2) A compounding log consisting of a single document containing all of the following:
- (A) Name and Strength of the compounded drug preparation.
- (B) The date the drug preparation was compounded.
- (C) The identity of any pharmacy personnel engaged in compounding the drug preparation.
- (D) The identity of the pharmacist reviewing the final drug preparation.
- (E) The quantity of each ingredient used in compounding the drug preparation.
- (F) The manufacturer, expiration date and lot number of each component. If the manufacturer name is demonstrably unavailable, the name of the supplier may be substituted. If the manufacturer does not supply an expiration date for any component, the records shall include the date of receipt of the component in the pharmacy, and the limitations of section 1735.2, subdivision (l) shall apply.
- (i) Exempt from the requirements in this paragraph (1735.3(a)(2)(F)) are sterile preparations compounded in a single lot for administration within seventy-two (72) hours to a patient in a health care facility licensed under section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code and stored in accordance with standards for "Redispensed CSPs" found in Chapter 797 of the United States Pharmacopeia National Formulary (USP37-NF32) Through 2nd Supplement (37th Revision, Effective December 1, 2014), hereby incorporated by reference.
- (G) A pharmacy-assigned unique reference or lot number for the compounded drug preparation.

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- (H) The beyond use date or beyond use date and time of the final compounded drug preparation, expressed in the compounding document in a standard date and time format.
  - (I) The final quantity or amount of drug preparation compounded for dispensing.
- (J) Documentation of quality reviews and required post-compounding process and procedures.
- (b) Pharmacies shall maintain records of the proper acquisition, storage, and destruction of chemicals, bulk drug substances, drug products, and components used in compounding.
- (c) Active ingredients shall be obtained from a supplier registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). All other chemicals, bulk drug substances, and drug products used to compound drug preparations shall be obtained, whenever possible, from FDA- registered suppliers. The pharmacy shall acquire and retain certificates of purity or analysis, either written in English or translated into English, for chemicals, bulk drug substances, and drug products used in compounding. Certificates of purity or analysis are not required for drug products that are approved by the FDA. Any certificates of purity or analysis acquired by the pharmacy shall be matched to the corresponding chemical, bulk drug substance, or drug products received.
- (d) Pharmacies shall maintain and retain all records required by this article in the pharmacy in a readily retrievable form for at least three years from the date the record was last in effect. If only recorded and stored electronically, on magnetic media, or in any other computerized form, the records shall be maintained as specified by Business and Professions Code section 4070 subsection (c).
  - 19. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1761, subsection (a), states:
- (a) No pharmacist shall compound or dispense any prescription which contains any significant error, omission, irregularity, uncertainty, ambiguity or alteration. Upon receipt of any such prescription, the pharmacist shall contact the prescriber to obtain the information needed to validate the prescription.

## **COST RECOVERY**

20. Section 125.3 of the Code states, 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

1	SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
2	(Failure to Report)
3	(Respondent Hospital Pharmacy HPE 41170 and Respondent Main Pharmacy LSE 99994)
4	43. Respondents Hospital Pharmacy and Main Pharmacy are subject to disciplinary
5	action under Section 4301, subsection (o), in that they committed unprofessional conduct by
6	failing to comply with California Business and Professions Code section 4127.1. Specifically, on
7	November 14, 2018, patient NC had an adverse effect (death) attributable to Respondents' sterile
8	drug product. Respondent Hospital Pharmacy and Respondent Main Pharmacy failed to report
9	this adverse effect to the Board.
10	Paragraphs 23 to 41 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
11	THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
12	(Gross Negligence – Respondent Altunyan)
13	44. Respondent Altunyan is subject to disciplinary action under Section 4301, subsection
14	(c), in that Respondent Altunyan committed unprofessional conduct and gross negligence.
15	Specifically, on or about November 13, 2018, Respondent Altunyan verified and approved for
16	dispensing an erroneous prescription with dangerously high intravenous sodium chloride content,
17	which led to Patient NC's death.
18	Paragraphs 23 to 41 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
19	FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
20	(Unprofessional Conduct – Inappropriate Exercise of Education/Training/Experience)
21	(Respondent Altunyan)
22	45. Respondent Altunyan is subject to disciplinary action under Section 4301 and Section
23	4306.5 in that Respondent Altunyan committed unprofessional conduct involving inappropriate
24	exercise of her education, training, and experience as a pharmacist. Specifically, Respondent
25	Altunyan verified and approved for dispensing an erroneous prescription with dangerously high
26	intravenous sodium chloride content, which led to Patient NC's death.
27	Paragraphs 23 to 41 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
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1	FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
2	(Gross Negligence – Respondent Sasaki)
3	46. Respondent Sasaki is subject to disciplinary action under Section 4301, subsection
4	(c), in that Respondent Sasaki committed unprofessional conduct and gross negligence.
5	Specifically, on or about November 14, 2018, Respondent Sasaki dispensed at least one erroneou
6	prescription with dangerously high intravenous sodium chloride content, which led to Patient
7	NC's death.
8	Paragraphs 23 to 41 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
9	SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
10	(Unprofessional Conduct – Inappropriate Exercise of Education/Training/Experience)
11	(Respondent Sasaki)
12	47. Respondent Sasaki is subject to disciplinary action under Section 4301 and Section
13	4306.5 in that Respondent Sasaki committed unprofessional conduct involving inappropriate
14	exercise of his education, training, and experience as a pharmacist. Specifically, Respondent
15	Sasaki dispensed at least one erroneous prescription with dangerously high intravenous sodium
16	chloride content, which led to Patient NC's death.
17	Paragraphs 23 to 41 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
18	DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS
19	48. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Hospital
20	Pharmacy, HPE 41170, Complainant alleges that on April 6, 2016, the Board issued Citation No.
21	CI 2015 69847 and ordered Respondent Hospital Pharmacy to pay a fine of \$1,500.00 for
22	violating 1) California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1714, subsection (b); 2) California
23	Business and Professions Code section 4301, subsection (c); and 3) California Business and
24	Professions Code section 4081, subsection (a).
25	49. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Main
26	Pharmacy, LSE 99994, Complainant alleges that on April 6, 2016, the Board issued Citation No.
27	CI 2015 69848 and ordered Respondent Main Pharmacy to pay a fine of \$1,000 for violating 1)
28	California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1714, subsection (b); 2) California Business and

Professions Code section 4301, subsection (c); 3) California Business and Professions Code section 4081, subsection (a); and 4) California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1735.3.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

- 50. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170 issued to The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital, The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170 is placed on probation or until Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 51. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170 issued to The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital while Johnese Spisso has been an officer and had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the licensee was disciplined, Johnese Spisso shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170 is placed on probation or until Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 52. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994 issued to The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital IVAS, The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital IVAS shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994 is placed on probation or until Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 53. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994 issued to The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa

Monica – UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital IVAS while Johnese Spisso has been an officer and had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the licensee was disciplined, Johnese Spisso shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994 is placed on probation or until Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994 is reinstated if it is revoked.

# **PRAYER**

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

- Revoking or suspending Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170, issued to The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa Monica - UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital;
- Revoking or suspending Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994, issued to The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa Monica - UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital IVAS;
- 3. Prohibiting Johnese Spisso from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170 is placed on probation or until Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170 is reinstated if Hospital Pharmacy Permit Number HPE 41170 issued to The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital is revoked;
- 4. Prohibiting Johnese Spisso from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994 is placed on probation or until Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994 is reinstated if Sterile Compounding Permit Number LSE 99994 issued to The Regents of the University of California, dba Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center & Orthopedic Hospital IVAS is revoked;

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