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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

COUNTY OF KERN, CALIFORNIA, dba KERN MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS PHARMACY, Hospital Pharmacy License No. PHE 54462;

and

ALISIA LIRA CARABANTES,
Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH 28141;

and

SANJIT SINGH DHILLON, Pharmacist License No. RPH 58780,

Respondents

Agency Case No. 7026

OAH No. 2021040550

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 9, 2022.

It is so ORDERED on February 7, 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 MARIO CUAHUTLE Deputy Attorney Consul				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 305067				
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6615 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126 E-mail: Mario.Cuahutle@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant				
6 7					
8					
9	BEFOR BOARD OF P				
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
11					
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 7026			
13	COUNTY OF KERN, CALIFORNIA, DBA				
14	KERN MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS PHARMACY	OAH No. 2021040550			
15	2014 Collage Ave.	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER FOR PUBLIC			
16	Bakersfield, CA 93305 Hospital Pharmacy License No. PHE 54462,	REPROVAL AS TO SANJIT SINGH DHILLON ONLY			
17	ALICIA LIRA CARABANTES 620 Voorhies Lane	[Bus. & Prof. Code § 495]			
18	Bakersfield, CA 93306 Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH				
19	28141,				
20	and				
21 22	SANJIT SINGH DHILLON 15732 San Marco Pl. Bakersfield, CA 93314				
23	Pharmacist License No. RPH 58780				
24	Respondents.				
25					
26	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGR	EED by and between the parties to the above-			
27	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	true:			
28	///				
		1			

PARTIES

- Anne Sodergren (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Mario Cuahutle, Deputy Attorney General.
- Respondent Sanjit Singh Dhillon (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Adam B. Brown whose address is: 3848 W. Carson Street, Suite 206, Torrance, CA 90503.

JURISDICTION

- 3. On or about September 7, 2006, the Board of Pharmacy (Board) issued Pharmacist License No. RPH 58780 to Respondent. The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2022, unless renewed.
- 4. Accusation No. 7026 was filed before the Board, Department of Consumer Affairs and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on February 1, 2021. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 7026 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 7026. 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 Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at its own expense; 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.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 7026.
- 9. Respondent agrees that his Pharmacist License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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.

13. 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 Pharmacist License No. RPH 58780 issued to Respondent shall be publicly reproved by the Board of Pharmacy under Business and Professions Code section 495 in resolution of Accusation No. 7026, attached as exhibit A.

Coursework. No later than one year from the effective date of the public reproval, Respondent, at his own expense, shall enroll, successfully complete and submit verification of six hours of remedial education in pharmacy law and operations, of which at least 50% must be in person or live webinar. 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(s).

Cost Recovery. No later than 1 year from the effective date of the Decision, Respondent shall pay \$4,666.38 to the Board for its costs associated with the investigation and enforcement of this matter pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 125.3. If Respondent fails to pay the Board costs as ordered, Respondent shall not be allowed to renew his Pharmacist License until Respondent pays costs in full. In addition, the Board may enforce this order for payment of its costs in any appropriate court, in addition to any other rights the Board may have.

Full Compliance. As a resolution of the charges in Accusation No. 7026, 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 Pharmacist License No. RPH 58780.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Adam B. Brown. I understand the

1	stipulation and the effect it will have on my Pharmacist License. I enter into this Stipulated			
2	Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently,			
3	and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.			
4				
5	DATED:			
6	SANJIT SINGH DHILLON Respondent			
7	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Sanjit Singh Dhillon the terms and			
8	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order			
9	for Public Reproval. I approve its form and content.			
10	DATED:			
11	ADAM B. BROWN Attorney for Respondent			
12				
13	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>			
14	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby			
15	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of			
16	Consumer Affairs.			
17	DATED: Respectfully submitted,			
18	ROB BONTA			
19	Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK			
20	Supervising Deputy Attorney General			
21				
22 23	Mario Cuahutle Deputy Attorney General			
24	Attorneys for Complainant			
25				
26				
27	LA2020602474			
28	64713691.docx			
	5			

1	stipulation and the effect it will have on my Pharmacist License. I enter into this Stipulated			
2	Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently,			
3	and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.			
4				
5	DATED: 1/29/2021 Jm			
6	SANJIT SINGH DHILLON Respondent			
7	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Sanjit Singh Dhillon the terms and			
8	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order			
9	for Public Reproval. I approve its form and content.			
10	DATED: 1(-29-21			
11	ADAM B. BROWN Attorney for Respondent			
12				
13	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>			
14	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby			
15	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of			
16	Consumer Affairs.			
17	11/30/21			
18	DATED: Respectfully submitted,			
19 20	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK			
21	Supervising Deputy Attorney General			
22	Mario Cuahetle			
23	MARIO CUAHUTLE Deputy Attorney General			
24	Attorneys for Complainant			
25				
26				
27	LA2020602474			
28	64713691.docx			
	5			
11	ω			

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 7026

1	XAVIER BECERRA	
2	Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General MARIO CUAHUTLE	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 305067	
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013	
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6615 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126	
7	E-mail: Mario.Cuahutle@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant	
8	DEFECT	
9	BEFOR BOARD OF I	PHARMACY
10	DEPARTMENT OF CO STATE OF C	
11		
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 7026
13	COUNTY OF KERN, CALIFORNIA, DBA	
14	KERN MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS PHARMACY	ACCUSATION
15	2014 College Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93305	
16	Original Permit No. PHE 54462,	
17	ALICIA LIRA CARABANTES 620 Voorbies Lane	
18	Bakersfield, CA 93306	
19 20	Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH 28141,	
21	and	
22	SANJIT SINGH DHILLON	
23	15732 San Marco Pl. Bakersfield, CA 93314	
24	Pharmacist License No. RPH 58780	
25	Respondents.	
26		
27	///	
28	///	
		1 MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS PHARMACY, ALICIA
	1 (= = = · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

LIRA CARABANTES, and SANJIT SINGH DHILLON) ACCUSATION

guilty, by any of the following methods:

28

board may take action when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing the person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment.

- (m) The cash compromise of a charge of violation of Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 801) of Title 21 of the United States Code regulating controlled substances or of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code relating to the Medi-Cal program.
- (n) The revocation, suspension, or other discipline by another state of a license to practice pharmacy, operate a pharmacy, or do any other act for which a license is required by this chapter that would be grounds for revocation, suspension, or other discipline under this chapter. Any disciplinary action taken by the board pursuant to this section shall be coterminous with action taken by another state, except that the term of any discipline taken by the board may exceed that of another state, consistent with the board's enforcement guidelines. The evidence of discipline by another state is conclusive proof of unprofessional conduct.
- (o) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter or of the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing pharmacy, including regulations established by the board or by any other state or federal regulatory agency.
 - (p) Actions or conduct that would have warranted denial of a license.
- (q) Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert an investigation of the board.
- (r) The selling, trading, transferring, or furnishing of drugs obtained pursuant to Section 256b of Title 42 of the United States Code to any person a licensee knows or reasonably should have known, not to be a patient of a covered entity, as defined in paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Section 256b of Title 42 of the United States Code.
- (s) The clearly excessive furnishing of dangerous drugs by a wholesaler to a pharmacy that primarily or solely dispenses prescription drugs to patients of long-term care facilities. Factors to be considered in determining whether the furnishing of dangerous drugs is clearly excessive shall include, but not be limited to, the amount of dangerous drugs furnished to a pharmacy that primarily or solely dispenses prescription drugs to patients of long-term care facilities, the previous ordering pattern of the pharmacy, and the general patient population to whom the pharmacy distributes the dangerous drugs. That a wholesaler has established, and employs, a tracking system that complies with the requirements of subdivision (b) of Section 4164 shall be considered in determining whether there has been a violation of this subdivision. This provision shall not be interpreted to require a wholesaler to obtain personal medical information or be authorized to permit a wholesaler to have access to personal medical information except as otherwise authorized by Section 56 and following of the Civil Code. For purposes of this section, long-term care facility shall have the same meaning given the term in Section 1418 of the Health and Safety Code.

1.0	α	1007		•	. •	
10.	Section	$\Delta 307$	ctatec	1n	pertinent	nart:
10.	Dection	TJU /	states,	111	pertinent	part.

"(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, 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 manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner 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, 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."

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

11. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1716 states:

"Pharmacists shall not deviate from the requirements of a prescription except upon the prior consent of the prescriber or to select the drug product in accordance with Section 4073 of the Business and Professions Code. Nothing in this regulation is intended to prohibit a pharmacist from exercising commonly-accepted pharmaceutical practice in the compounding or dispensing of a prescription."

12. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1764 states:

"No pharmacist shall exhibit, discuss, or reveal the contents of any prescription, the therapeutic effect thereof, the nature, extent, or degree of illness suffered by any patient or any medical information furnished by the prescriber with any person other than the patient or his or her authorized representative, the prescriber or other licensed practitioner then caring for the

17.

27

28

Respondent Kern, Respondent Dhillon, and Respondent Carabantes are subject to

1	of Regulations, title 16, section 1764, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct in that
2	Respondent Kern erroneously furnished patient HM's Basaglar KwikPen to patient BM.
3	Respondent Dhillon was the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Kern when this conduct
4	occurred and Respondent Carabanates was the Pharmacy Technician who dispensed patient HM's
5	Basaglar KwikPen to patient BM.
6	SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE
7	(Variation from Prescriptions)
8	18. Respondent Kern, Respondent Dhillon, and Respondent Carabantes are subject to
9	disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (o), in conjunction with California Code
10	of Regulations, title 16, section 1716, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct in that
11	Respondent Kern erroneously furnished patient HM's Basaglar KwikPen to patient BM, which
12	mistakenly directed patient BM to inject 40 units at bedtime when patient BM was prescribed
13	with directions to inject 15 units every morning. Respondent Dhillon was the Pharmacist-in-
14	Charge of Respondent Kern when this conduct occurred and Respondent Carabanates was the
15	Pharmacy Technician who dispensed patient HM's Basaglar KwikPen to patient BM, resulting in
16	patient BM ingesting the wrong dose of medication.
17	FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS AS TO PATIENT VR
18	19. On or about March 19, 2019, the Board received a complaint from the California
19	Department of Public Health (CDPH) alleging that a pharmacy technician at Kern Medical Center
20	Campus Pharmacy incorrectly dispensed a patient's prescription to a different patient thus
21	disclosing the patient's prescription information to an unauthorized individual. The Board
22	conducted an investigation of the complaint.
23	20. The Board's investigation revealed that on or about November 20, 2018, patient LU
24	was dispensed Bydureon BCise prescribed for patient VR.
25	21. At all times relevant, Respondent Dhillon was employed as the Pharmacist-in-Charge
26	at Kern Medical Center Campus Pharmacy and Respondent Carabantes was employed as a
27	Pharmacy Technician at Kern Medical Center Campus Pharmacy.
28	

Department of Public Health (CDPH) alleging that Sage Brush Medical Plaza Pharmacy

28

incorrectly dispensed a patient's prescription to a different patient thus disclosing the patient's prescription information to an unauthorized individual. The Board conducted an investigation of the complaint.

- 27. The Board's investigation revealed that on or about November 16, 2018, patient MC was dispensed Humira prescribed for patient BC.
- 28. At all times relevant, Respondent Dhillon was employed as the Pharmacist-in-Charge at Sage Brush Medical Plaza Pharmacy and Respondent Carabantes was employed as a Pharmacy Technician at Sage Brush Medical Plaza Pharmacy.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unauthorized Disclosure of Prescriptions)

29. Respondent Dhillon and Respondent Carabantes are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (o), in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1764, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct in that Respondent Dhillon was the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Sage Brush Medical Plaza Pharmacy when this conduct occurred and Respondent Carabanates was the Pharmacy Technician who erroneously furnished patient BC's Humira to patient MC thus revealing patient BC's medical information to patient MC without patient BC's authorization.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS AS TO PATIENT HS

- 30. On or about March 19, 2019, the Board received a complaint from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) alleging that Kern Medical Center Campus Pharmacy incorrectly dispensed a patient's prescription to a different patient thus disclosing the patient's prescription information to an unauthorized individual. The Board conducted an investigation of the complaint.
- 31. The Board's investigation revealed that on or about January 15, 2019, a pharmacy technician dispensed the wrong medication to the wrong patient. Specifically, patient HS #1 was dispensed Triamcinolone 0.1% cream labeled for a different patient HS #2 instead of prescribed Augmentin 125-31.25 mg/5ml for patient HS #1.

32. At all times relevant, Respondent Dhillon was employed as the Pharmacist-in-Charge at Kern Medical Center Campus Pharmacy.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unauthorized Disclosure of Prescriptions)

33. Respondent Kern and Respondent Dhillon are subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (o), in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1764, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct in that Respondent Kern erroneously dispensed patient HS #2's Triamcinolone 0.1% cream to patient HS #1. Respondent Dhillon was the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Kern when this conduct occurred.

DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS

34. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Kern Medical Center Campus Pharmacy, Complainant alleges that on or about March 28, 2018, in a prior disciplinary action titled In the Matter of the Accusation Against Kern Medical Center Campus Pharmacy before the Board of Pharmacy, in Case Number 5551, Respondent's license was publicly reproved for unauthorized receipt and delivery of prescriptions and prescription medication, unauthorized deposit of a prescription, unauthorized electronic transmission of prescriptions, and storage of pharmacy records at an unlicensed location. That decision is now final.

OTHER MATTERS

- 35. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHE 54462 issued to County of Kern, California dba Kern Medical Center Campus Pharmacy, County of Kern, California shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHE 54462 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHE 54462 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 36. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHE 54462 issued to County of Kern, California dba Kern Medical Center Campus Pharmacy, while Russell Judd has been an officer and/or owner and had knowledge of or knowingly

///

28

1	7.	Ordering Kern Medic	cal Center Campus Pharmacy, Alicia Lira Carabantes and Sanji		
2	Singh Dhil	lon to pay the Board of	f Pharmacy the reasonable costs of the investigation and		
3	enforcemen	enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,			
4	8.	Taking such other and	d further action as deemed necessary and proper.		
5					
6					
7	DATED	1/19/2021	Signature on File		
8	DATED:		ANNE SODERGREN		
9			Executive Officer Board of Pharmacy		
10			Board of Pharmacy Department of Consumer Affairs State of California		
11			Complainant		
12					
13	LA20206024 63715815.do				
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
			14		