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

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:

CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS PHARMACY, INC., DBA, CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS PHARMACY, JOSEPH AMIN CEO/PRES

Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 43361

and

DAVOOD BEHDADNIA,

Pharmacist License No. RPH 45285,

Respondents.

Agency Case No. 7131

OAH No. 2022040191

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License 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 April 28, 2023.

It is so ORDERED on March 29, 2023.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Ву

Seung W. Oh, Pharm.D. Board President

1	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California				
2	NANCY A. KAISER Supervising Deputy Attorney General				
3	KEVIN J. RIGLEY				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 131800 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702				
5	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6301				
6	Facsimile: (916) 731-2126 Attorneys for Complainant				
7	,				
8	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY				
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS				
10	STATE OF C.	ALIFORNIA			
11	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation	Case No. 7131			
12	Against:	OAH No. 2022040191			
13 14	CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS PHARMACY INC. DBA CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS PHARMACY, JOSEPH	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER AS TO			
15	AMIN CEO/PRES 412 S. San Vincente Blvd	CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS INC. DBA CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS PHARMACY ONLY			
16	Los Angeles, CA 90048	PHARMACIONLI			
17	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 43361,				
18	and DAYOOD REHDADNIA				
19	DAVOOD BEHDADNIA 5101 Topeka Drive Tarzana, CA 91356				
20	Pharmacist License No. RPH 45285				
21	Respondents.				
22					
23					
24	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-				
25	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:				
26	<u>PARTIES</u>				
27		Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy			
28	(Board). She brought this action solely in her off	cial capacity and is represented in this matter by			
	1				
1	Stipulated Surrence	ler of License (Century Beverly Hills) (Case No. 7131)			

Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Kevin J. Rigley, Deputy Attorney General.

- 2. Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy Inc. dba Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO and President, and Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, and Treasurer (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Herbert L. Weinberg, Fenton Law Group, LLP, 1990 S Bundy Drive Suite 777, Los Angeles, CA 90025.
- 3. On or about December 22, 1997, the Board issued Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 43361 to Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, and Treasurer (Respondent). The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on December 1, 2023, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. The First Amended Accusation No. 7131 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 October 28, 2021. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on May 5, 2022. Respondent timely filed its Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of the First Amended Accusation No. 7131 (hereinafter referred to as the "Accusation") 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. 7131. 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.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 7131, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders its Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 43361 for the Board's formal acceptance.
- 9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation it enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of its Pharmacy Permit without further process.

CONTINGENCY

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

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 Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 43361, issued to Respondent Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy Inc. dba Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Joseph Amin, CEO/President (Respondent), is surrendered and accepted by the Board. Respondent and Joseph Amin understands and agrees that for purposes of Business and Professions Code section 4307, this surrender shall be construed the same as revocation.

- The surrender of Respondent's Pharmacy Permit and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent.
 This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.
- 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 pocket license and, if one was issued, its wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If Respondent or Joseph Amin ever applies for a pharmacy permit 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. 7131 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.

- Respondent or Joseph Amin shall be jointly and severally liable for paying the agency 5. its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$14,926.35 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated pharmacy permit.
- If Respondent or Joseph Amin 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. 7131 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent and Joseph Amin for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

ACCEPTANCE

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

DATED:

沙INC. DBA CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS

PHARMACY, JOSEPH AMIN

CEO/President

By: Joseph Amin, CEO/President

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy Inc. dba Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Joseph Amin CEO/President the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and

content.

28

2/3/2023 DATED:

HERBERT'L. WEINBERG Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Consumer Affairs. DATED: February 3, 2023 Respectfully submitted, **ROB BONTA** Attorney General of California NANCY A. KAISER Supervising Deputy Attorney General KEVIN J. RIGLEY Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant LA2021601474 65724169_2.docx

Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 7131

1	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California					
2 3	NANCY A. KAISER Supervising Deputy Attorney General					
4	KEVIN J. RIGLEY Deputy Attorney General State Par No. 121800					
5	State Bar No. 131800 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702					
6	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6301 Facilities (016) 731 2126					
7	Facsimile: (916) 731-2126 Attorneys for Complainant					
8	DEFODE TH	7.				
	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY					
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
10						
11	To the Metter of the Pinet Amended Accession	C N 7121				
12 13	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 7131				
	CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS PHARMACY INC., DBA CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION				
14 15	PHARMACY; JOSEPH AMIN, 51% SHAREHOLDER, CEO, AND PRESIDENT;					
16	DAVOOD BEHDADNIA, 49% SHAREHOLDER, SECRETARY, AND TREASURER					
17	412 S. San Vincente Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90048					
18	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 43361,					
19	and					
20	DAVOOD BEHDADNIA 18663 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 110					
21	Tarzana, CA 91356					
22	Pharmacist License No. RPH 45285					
23	Respondents.					
24	1	I.				
25	<u>PARTIES</u>					
26	1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) brings this F	First Amended Accusation solely in her				
27	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of					
28	Consumer Affairs.					
	1					

2. On or about December 22, 1997, the Board issued Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 43361 to Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, and Treasurer (Respondent Pharmacy). The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on December 1, 2022, unless renewed.

<u>Davood Behdadnia</u> (Pharmacist-in-Charge from June 30, 1999 – present)

3. On or about April 14, 1992, the Board issued Pharmacist License Number RPH 45285 to Davood Behdadnia (Respondent Behdadnia). The Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2023, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 4. This First Amended 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 118, subdivision (b), of the Code provides that the suspension/expiration/surrender/cancellation of a license shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.
 - 6. Section 4300 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
 - (a) Every license issued may be suspended or revoked.
 - (b) The board shall discipline the holder of any license issued by the board, whose default has been entered or whose case has been heard by the board and found guilty, by any of the following methods:
 - (1) Suspending judgment.
 - (2) Placing him or her upon probation.
 - (3) Suspending his or her right to practice for a period not exceeding one year.
 - (4) Revoking his or her license.

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, or partner," as used in this section and Section 4308, may refer to a pharmacist or to any other person who serves in that 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.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- 9. Section 4081 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
- "(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."

1	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		
2	regulatory agency.		
3	13. Section 4306.5 of the Code states:		
4	Unprofessional conduct for a pharmacist may include any of the following:		
5	(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		
6	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		
7	the board.		
8	(b) Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the failure to exercise or implement his or her best professional judgment or corresponding responsibility with		
9 10	regard to the dispensing or furnishing of controlled substances, dangerous drugs, or dangerous devices, or with regard to the provision of services.		
11	(c) Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the failure to consult		
12	appropriate patient, prescription, and other records pertaining to the performance of any pharmacy function.		
13	(d) Acts or omissions that involve, in whole or in part, the failure to fully maintain and retain appropriate patient-specific information pertaining to the performance of		
14	any pharmacy function.		
15	14. Section 4022 of the Code states:		
16	"Dangerous drug" or "dangerous device" means any drug or device unsafe for self-		
17	use in humans or animals, and includes the following:		
18	"(a) Any drug that bears the legend: "Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing		
19	without prescription," "Rx only," or words of similar import.		
20	"(b) Any device that bears the statement: "Caution: federal law restricts this device to		
21	sale by or on the order of a," "Rx only," or words of similar import, the blank to be filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use or order use of the		
22	device.		
23	"(c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006."		
24	15 0 1 4000 61 0 1		
25	15. Section 4332 of the Code states:		
26	Any person who fails, neglects, or refuses to maintain the records required by Section 4081		
27	or who, when called upon by an authorized officer or a member of the board, fails, neglects, or		
28			

(CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS PHARMACY, INC.; DAVID BEHDADNIA) FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION

1	"25–49			
2	"50–74			
3	"75–100			
4	"101–150			
5	"151 and over.			
6	"(B) In conjunction with the quantity boxes, a space shall be provided to designate the units			
7	referenced in the quantity boxes when the drug is not in tablet or capsule form.			
8	"(8) Prescription blanks shall contain a statement printed on the bottom of the prescription			
9	blank that the "Prescription is void if the number of drugs prescribed is not noted."			
10	"(9) The preprinted name, category of licensure, license number, federal controlled			
11	substance registration number, and address of the prescribing practitioner.			
12	"(10) Check boxes shall be printed on the form so that the prescriber may indicate the			
13	number of refills ordered.			
14	"(11) The date of origin of the prescription.			
15	"(12) A check box indicating the prescriber's order not to substitute.			
16	"(13) An identifying number assigned to the approved security printer by the Department of			
17	Justice.			
18	"(14) (A) A check box by the name of each prescriber when a prescription form lists			
19	multiple prescribers.			
20	"(B) Each prescriber who signs the prescription form shall identify themselves as the			
21	prescriber by checking the box by the prescriber's name.			
22	"(15) A uniquely serialized number, in a manner prescribed by the Department of Justice in			
23	accordance with Section 11162.2.			
24	"(b) Each batch of controlled substance prescription forms shall have the lot number printed			
25	on the form and each form within that batch shall be numbered sequentially beginning with the			
26	numeral one."			
27				
28				
	8			
	(CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS PHARMACY, INC.; DAVID BEHDADNIA) FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION			

- "(g) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent the department from serving and prosecuting an accusation to suspend or revoke a subscriber if grounds for that suspension or revocation exist."
- 22. Health and Safety Code section 11165.4 states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) (1) (A) (i) A health care practitioner authorized to prescribe, order, administer, or furnish a controlled substance shall consult the CURES database to review a patient's controlled substance history before prescribing a Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV controlled substance to the patient for the first time and at least once every four months thereafter if the substance remains part of the treatment of the patient."
 - 23. Health and Safety Code section 11165.6 states:

A prescriber shall be allowed to access the CURES database for a list of patients for whom that prescriber is listed as a prescriber in the CURES database.

REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 24. Code of Federal Regulations Title 21, Part 1306, Section 04 (21 CFR 1306.04) states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) A prescription for a controlled substance to be effective must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription. An order purporting to be a prescription issued not in the usual course of professional treatment or in legitimate and authorized research is not a prescription within the meaning and intent of section 309 of the Act (21 U.S.C. 829) and the person knowingly filling such a purported prescription, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of the provisions of law relating to controlled substances."
 - 25. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1707 states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) Labels on drug containers dispensed to patients in California shall conform to the following format:

. .

- 31. **Soma**, sold under the generic name **carisoprodol**, is a Schedule IV controlled substance pursuant to Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1308.14, subdivision (c)(7), and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 32. **Xanax**, sold under the generic name **alprazolam**, is a Schedule IV controlled substance under Health and Safety Code section 11057, subdivision (d)(1), and a dangerous drug under Business and Professions Code Section 4022.

BOARD INVESTIGATION REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2021

- 33. This is a corresponding responsibility case. The Board received information that numerous controlled substance prescriptions were dispensed by Respondent Pharmacy from a prescriber whose prescriptions apparently exhibited "red flags" of abuse. An investigation confirmed Respondents' pattern of dispensing controlled substance prescriptions with irregularities. Respondent Pharmacy and its pharmacists failed to fulfill their corresponding responsibility to only dispense medically legitimate controlled substance prescriptions by failing to address and resolve red flags of abuse and illegitimacy. These acts and omissions constituted unprofessional conduct and were in violation of pharmacy law.
- 34. Since the last inspection of Respondent Pharmacy recently occurred on December 4, 2019, due to Covid-19, no inspection was completed for this investigation. A board inspector reviewed Respondent Pharmacy's CURES information and found patterns of prescriptions dispensed with red flags of illegitimacy, including high doses of commonly sought after and frequently abused controlled substances from specific prescribers.
- 35. On August 3, 2020, the board inspector emailed a request for records to Respondent Behdadnia, PIC of Respondent Pharmacy. In order to obtain the most complete information, the board inspector specifically requested "any and all records, notes, or related documentation related to requested listed prescriptions" be provided.
- 36. After being granted a ten-day extension, Respondent Pharmacy subsequently supplied records to the board inspector which were incomplete on several occasions. Upon working with their software vendor, Respondent Pharmacy ultimately provided records which seemed complete and were used for this investigation, which included the following:

- Dispensing records for the period July 31, 2017 through July 31, 2020
- Original prescription documents
- 37. The Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) program was initiated in 1997 and required mandatory monthly pharmacy reporting of dispensed schedule II controlled substances. The program was amended in January 2005 to include mandatory weekly reporting of schedule II-IV medications. The data is collected statewide and its main goal is to improve healthcare providers' ability to combat prescription drug abuse.
- 38. The component of CURES which is accessible to pharmacists and prescribers is called the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Registration for access to the PDMP has been available since February 2009; however, all practitioners licensed to prescribe or dispense scheduled medications were required by law to sign up by July 1, 2016. The data has been utilized by healthcare professionals such as prescribers and pharmacists to aid in determining whether patients are utilizing their controlled substances safely and appropriately, ensuring they are not obtaining medical care from multiple prescribers, frequenting multiple pharmacies, obtaining early refills of controlled substances, travelling far distances to prescribers or pharmacies, consistently paying cash for their controlled substance prescriptions or attempting to fill high dose opioids or benzodiazepines when they are naive to either medication.
- 39. According to Health and Safety Code Section 11165.4(a)(l)(A)(i), which became effective on October 2, 2018, a health care practitioner authorized to prescribe, order, administer, or furnish a controlled substance shall consult the CURES database to review a patient's controlled substance history before prescribing a Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV controlled substance to the patient for the first time and at least once every four months thereafter if the substance remains part of the treatment of the patient. It is imperative pharmacists not only consult CURES but that they also utilize their education and training to appropriately scrutinize the reports.
- 40. After comparing prescriptions dispensed by Respondent Pharmacy with those reported to CURES, the board inspector determined that there were 204 controlled substances prescriptions that were dispensed, but never reported to CURES, totaling 12,284 dosage units.

- 41. Oxycodone 30 mg was the most common drug not reported to CURES by Respondent Pharmacy, which amounted to 39 prescriptions totaling 3,640 tablets.
- 42. Checking CURES prior to dispensing some controlled substance prescriptions, especially high dose opioids like oxycodone 30 mg, has become standard in pharmacy practice. Reasonable and prudent pharmacists, who review patients' medication records for potential drug therapy problems, as is required, would have noticed data was missing, or incorrect, in CURES reports. Without these records, healthcare professionals did not have access to CURES information from Respondent Pharmacy with which to make informed decisions regarding the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances. Supplying controlled substances to patients who duplicate medications can directly harm patients or other persons.
- 43. Respondent Behdadnia, as the PIC at Respondent Pharmacy, responded to an email request by the board inspector that was sent in an effort to identify pharmacists in Respondent Pharmacy dispensing records. Since several initials in the records were not for pharmacists, and only one controlled substance prescription was noted as being verified by another pharmacist, the board inspector determined that Respondent Behdadnia was directly responsible for all prescriptions dispensed by Respondent Pharmacy in connection with this investigation.
- 44. Additionally, the board inspector determined that Respondent Pharmacy's own controlled substance policy gave guidance which was consistent with corresponding responsibility laws by noting:

"Controlled substance prescriptions are valid only if all required information is included and medication being prescribed is for a valid medical reason by an individual with authority to prescribe it."

45. Respondent Behdadnia, as PIC of Respondent Pharmacy, had the responsibility to ensure compliance with all state and federal laws governing pharmacy, including corresponding responsibility. Respondent Behdadnia has been a California licensed pharmacist since 1992 and, with his education, training, and experience, the principles of corresponding responsibility should have been very well known to him. This knowledge is expected to be the standard, not just with

classic example of a central nervous system (CNS) depressant. Oxycodone is available in 5, 10, 15, 20, and 30 mg immediate release tablets. Patients are not meant to initiate treatment with this drug, or with any other opioids, at the highest dosage. This is standard knowledge in the practice of pharmacy. The common street value for oxycodone is one dollar per milligram, or \$30 for one (1) oxycodone 30 mg tablet.

- 48. Upon reviewing the particular records analyzed for July 31, 2017 through July 31, 2020, the board inspector determined that Respondent Pharmacy dispensed a very high number of prescriptions for oxycodone 30 mg. It is unusual for a pharmacy to have oxycodone 30 mg, the highest strength available of immediate release tablets, as one of its most common drugs dispensed. Lower strengths of oxycodone are usually more represented in the usual course of professional practice. Additionally, it is irregular for Respondent Pharmacy to not have hydrocodone/APAP as one of its most commonly dispensed drugs, since such is by far the most commonly dispensed controlled substance in the country.
- 49. In furtherance of this investigation, the board inspector determined that the dispensing of oxycodone 30 mg prescriptions by respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia stood out as a group as having the following irregularities:
- Higher percentage (over 96 percent) of oxycodone 30 mg compared to other lower strengths
 - Large number of oxycodone 30 mg compared to other lower strengths
- 50. The board inspector reviewed some of the top prescribers of oxycodone 30 mg dispensed by respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia during the query period, including the following: Bhasker Venkateswaralu, M.D. (reported to CURES as "Todd Hang, D.O." RespondentPharmacy's records on the backtag of the prescriptions listed Dr. Venkateswaralu's name, but Dr. Hang's DEA number); Dean Weiss, M.D.; and Amir Friedman, M.D. The board inspector evaluated these three prescribers' patterns of dispensing (along with a few others) by Respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia.

Todd Hang, D.O./Bhasker Venkateswaralu, M.D.

- 51. Todd Hang, D.O. is licensed by the Osteopathic Medical Board of California as a physician and surgeon. Primary areas of practice are listed as family medicine and occupational medicine. Dr. Hang is noted as being in practice with Bhasker Venkateswaralu. M.D. on prescription documents presented to Respondent Pharmacy. The address for these prescribers is seven to ten miles from Respondent Pharmacy. The phone number preprinted on the prescription documents did not match online searches for either prescriber. The board has supplied information to pharmacists to not rely on the preprinted numbers for any verification, since they could be phony.
- 52. The signature on these prescription documents was a wavy scribble, which gave no indication as to which prescriber signed the prescriptions. Respondent Pharmacy records on the backtag of the prescriptions listed Dr. Venkateswaralu's name, but Dr. Hang's DEA number. This seemed to have caused a conflict in the CURES and pharmacy records.
- 53. All but one controlled substance prescribed by Dr. Hang or Dr. Venkateswaralu and dispensed by Respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia were for oxycodone 30 mg (the highest strength immediate release tablet available).
- 54. Eight of the 19 patients were documented as having more than one diagnosis on different dates, and 12 of the 19 were documented as having the very specific diagnosis of a right shoulder rotator cuff tear or rupture. This uniformity of diagnoses was a factor of irregularity and a red flag of illegitimacy. Additionally, several of these prescriptions were dispensed many days after being written, which could have been irregular as having no logical connection to diagnosis or treatment. Oxycodone is a potent pain medication reserved for the more severe types of acute and chronic pain. It would be irregular for many patients treated for pain to not be dispensed the medication they supposedly needed in a timely manner. Irregularities such as these require more extensive validation and resolution.
- 55. All of the over 120 prescription documents reviewed in connection with Dr. Hang/Dr. Venkateswaralu were missing at least the following features required for controlled substance prescription security forms:

- Many patients treated for pain were not dispensed the medication they supposedly needed in a timely manner
- 57. There was no indication all of these irregularities were attempted to be resolved by Respondents Pharmacy and/or Behdadnia.

Dean Weiss, M.D.

- 58. Dean Weiss, M.D. is licensed by the California Medical Board as a physician and surgeon. Primary areas of practice are listed as general medicine and pain management. Prescription documents from Dr. Weiss presented to Respondent Pharmacy listed addresses for Dr. Weiss at least 15 miles east of Respondent Pharmacy in Monterey Park, CA, and at least six (6) miles east in Los Angeles. Considering the well-known congested traffic conditions in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, this can be a red flag of illegitimacy for patients to travel these distances to a pharmacy, after passing by many other pharmacies much closer to their homes.
- 59. The board inspector determined that the patterns presented with the controlled substances dispensed, per prescriptions from Dr. Weiss, by respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia presented at least the following factors of irregularity, and contrasted with legitimate prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances:
- Only two controlled substances prescribed by Dr. Weiss were dispensed by Respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia: oxycodone 30 mg (132 prescriptions/12,270 tabs), and carisoprodol 350 mg (9 prescriptions/205 tabs)
- Over 93 percent of the prescriptions were for oxycodone 30 mg, the highest strength available
 - No lower strengths of oxycodone were dispensed
- Uniformity of treatment for multiple patients receiving similar or identical controlled substances
 - Some patients receiving similar or identical prescriptions on the same days
- 60. There was no indication all of these irregularities were attempted to be resolved by respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia. The Board Inspector further determined that Respondent Behdadnia, as PIC of Respondent Pharmacy, failed in the care and treatment of most of these

patients by repeatedly dispensing oxycodone 30 mg to patients whose risk of harm was increased by the other medications used in their treatment.

Amir Friedman, M.D.

- 61. Amir Friedman, M.D. is licensed by the California Medical Board as a physician and surgeon. A primary area of his practice is listed as pain management. Prescription documents presented to Respondent Pharmacy listed a main address for Dr. Friedman in Encino at least 16 miles from Respondent Pharmacy. Considering the well-known congested traffic conditions in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, this is a red flag of illegitimacy for patients to travel these distances to a pharmacy, after passing by many other pharmacies much closer to their homes.
- 62. The board inspector determined that according to CURES records, the only controlled substance prescribed by Dr. Friedman and dispensed by Respondent Pharmacy during the query period (87 prescriptions) was oxycodone 30 mg.
- 63. At least 80 of the prescription documents reviewed in connection with Dr. Friedman's prescriptions were missing at least the following features required for controlled substance prescription security forms:
- A watermark printed on the backside of the prescription blank, which read:
 "California Security Prescription."
- a. The watermark printed on the backside of the prescription documents read "DocuGard", while a box on the back of the prescription documents indicated that a "reflective watermark on the back visible when viewed at an angle under light California Security Prescription" should be present.
- b. Nothing other than DocuGard was seen when viewed with a black light, rubbed with a coin, or viewed at an angle to light.
 - 2. No lot number
 - 3. No California security printer number
- 64. The board inspector further determined that many of these prescription documents reviewed in connection with Dr. Friedman had the same diagnosis codes noted for the patients involved. In this regard, in February and March 2019 there was an influx of 14 patients who were

Invalid prescriptions from other prescribers

- 68. In addition to the previously listed invalid prescriptions above, the follow prescription documents reviewed in connection with this investigation were also irregular and missing required security features:
 - a. A prescription from Dr. Silverstein for alprazolam 2 mg 60 tabs (RX #374247).
 - b. A prescription from Dr. Quini for oxycodone 30 mg 120 tabs (RX #344472).
- c. A prescription from Dr. Ruiz-Villalpando for oxycodone 30 mg 120 tabs (RX #346734). Other irregularities with this prescription included an out of area prescriber, 80 miles from the pharmacy, the prescriber's city on the prescription misspelled as Parris instead of Perris, cash payment, and a high opioid starting dose.
- d. A prescription from Dr. O'Bryne for oxycodone 30 mg 120 tabs (RX #348126). Other irregularities with this prescription included an out of area prescriber, 50 miles from the pharmacy, cash payment, and a high opioid starting dose.
- 69. None of the above prescriptions had indication all of these irregularities were attempted to be resolved by Respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia.

High opioid starting doses

- 70. As a result of this investigation, the Board Inspector further determined that there were 45 instances in which respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia dispensed oxycodone 30 mg, and other opioids, to at least 30 different patients at dosages which were at least twice the recommended dose. In several instances the CURES reports showed the patients had not received an opioid over a time, and in an amount, which would have made appropriate dosing patients, who were not opioid tolerant, with these high doses.
- 71. As a result of this investigation, the Board Inspector further determined that at least 30 patients were dispensed unusually high doses at least twice the recommended safe dose of oxycodone and without any documentation of effective intervention by a pharmacist on 45 different occasions. In order to start, or restart patients on at least twice the safe recommended dose of oxycodone, as was done in these situations, the pharmacist would need to independently determine the patients would not be harmed in order to fulfill their corresponding responsibility.

There was no evidence this was done by Respondents Pharmacy and/or Behdadnia with these patients, despite the fact that all information needed to determine the unusually high doses was included with the prescriptions at the time of dispensing and would have been apparent if effectively reviewed. A review of the subject pharmacy records found none of these high doses were addressed by respondents Pharmacy and/or Behdadnia prior to dispensing.

- 72. Respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia did not overcome the extensive applicable dosing guidelines by simply calling for verification, and sometimes writing down a diagnosis code. These prescriptions had unresolved red flags of illegitimacy including, invalid prescription documents, high starting doses, drug interactions, and multiple patients prescribed the same medication and dose. Even if the prescriber had told Respondents Pharmacy and/or Behdadnia that the prescription was "verified", it would not have been sufficient to overcome the established risks determined by years of clinical research in thousands of different patients.
- 73. Respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia had objective information these prescribers were not issuing controlled substance prescriptions in the usual course of professional practice, based on all of the patterns of red flags of illegitimacy, including using invalid prescription forms, excessively high doses, dangerous drug interactions, and the failure by these prescribers to effectively evaluate patients' CURES data as required by law before prescribing high opioid doses.
- 74. As a result of this investigation, the board inspector further determined that Respondents Pharmacy and Behdadnia failed to review the readily available patient and prescription records which would supply necessary information to use their best professional judgment in making appropriate dispensing decisions. CURES reports run by the pharmacy and placed into pharmacy records are included in the type of records which pharmacists would be required to review. Reasonable and prudent pharmacists would have been convinced many of prescriptions for oxycodone 30 mg were not issued in the usual course of professional practice. This would especially be the case after recognizing certain prescribers were issuing high dose opioid prescriptions to patients not tolerant to their effects. They were exactly as would be expected for illegitimate prescriptions and are the type seen from "Pill Mills," a term used to

(CENTURY BEVERLY HILLS PHARMACY, INC.; DAVID BEHDADNIA) FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION

1	of Regulations, title 16, section 1761, subdivisions (a) and (b). Complainant hereby incorporates		
2	paragraphs 33-76 above as though set forth in full herein.		
3	SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE		
4	(Unprofessional Conduct – Gross Negligence)		
5	83. Respondent Behdadnia is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4113 and		
6	4301, subdivision (c). Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 33-76 above as though set		
7	forth in full herein.		
8	EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE		
9	(Unprofessional Conduct - Clearly Excessive Furnishing of Controlled Substances)		
10	84. Respondent Behdadnia is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4113 and		
11	4301, subdivision (d), in violation of Health and Safety Code sections 11152 and 11153,		
12	subdivision (a). Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 33-76 above as though set forth in		
13	full herein.		
14	NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE		
15	(Unprofessional Conduct)		
16	85. Respondent Behdadnia is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301,		
17	subdivisions (j) and/or (o). Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 33-76 above as though		
18	set forth in full herein.		
19	TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE		
20	(Reporting Controlled Substance Prescriptions to CURES)		
21	86. Respondent Behdadnia is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301,		
22	subdivisions (j) and (o), for violating Health and Safety Code section 11165, subdivision (d), in		
23	that between July 31, 2017 and July 31, 2020, as PIC of RespondentPharmacy, he failed to report		
24	at least 204 controlled substance prescriptions (12,284 dosage units), which included 39		
25	controlled substance prescriptions for oxycodone 30 mg (3,640 units), to the Department of		
26	Justice. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 33-76 above as though set forth in full		
27	herein.		

BOARD INVESTIGATION REPORT DATED JUNE 17, 2021

- 87. On September 17, 2018, the Board received a complaint regarding some alleged questionable practices on the part of Respondents. In response, a Board investigation was conducted, which included an on-site inspection of Respondent Pharmacy, and an audit of all sales, returns and/or destruction of oxycodone (Oxycontin) HCL 30 mg; hydromorphone 4 mg (Dilaudid); hydrocodone/acetaminophen 7.5 mg/300 mg (Vicodin); morphine sulfate 15 mg (MS Contin), from September 17, 2017 through December 4, 2019. Thereafter, a Board Inspector made the following findings and determinations in connection with this investigation, as reflected in her Investigation Report dated June 17, 2021:
- a. From September 17, 2017 through December 4, 2019, Respondent Pharmacy, while Respondent Behdadnia was serving as the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Pharmacy, failed to maintain the required records of acquisition and disposition to account for an inventory overage of oxycodone 30 mg totaling 22,257 tablets. In addition, no records of acquisition were available for various drug samples. Failure to have records of acquisition and disposition for dangerous drugs is a violation of Business and Professions Code, sections 4081, subdivision (a), and 4105 subdivisions (a) and (c).

ELEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Required Records)

88. Respondent Pharmacy is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301, subdivisions (j) and (o), and 4081, subdivision (a), in that for the period of September 17, 2017 through December 4, 2019, Respondent Pharmacy failed to maintain the required records of acquisition and disposition to account for an inventory overage of oxycodone 30 mg totaling 22,257 tablets. In addition, no records of acquisition were available for various drug samples. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraph 87 above as though set forth in full herein.

TWELFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Retain Records of Dangerous Drugs on Licensed Premises)

89. Respondent Pharmacy is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301, subdivisions (j) and (o), and 4105 subdivisions (a) and (c), in that for the period of September 17,

2017 through December 4, 2019, Respondent Pharmacy failed to retain the required records of acquisition and disposition on the licensed pharmacy premise to account for an inventory overage of oxycodone 30 mg totaling 22,257 tablets. In addition, no records of acquisition were available for various drug samples. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraph 87 above as though set forth in full herein.

THIRTEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Required Records)

90. Respondent Behdadnia is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301, subdivisions (j) and (o), 4113, and 4081, subdivision (a), in that for the period of September 17, 2017 through December 4, 2019, Respondent Behdadnia, as the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Pharmacy, failed to maintain the required records of acquisition and disposition to account for an inventory overage of oxycodone 30 mg totaling 22,257 tablets. In addition, no records of acquisition were available for various drug samples. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraph 87 above as though set forth in full herein.

FOURTEENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Retain Records of Dangerous Drugs and Devices on Licensed Premises)

91. Respondent Behdadnia is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 4301, subdivisions (j) and (o), 4113, and 4105 subdivisions (a) and (c), in that for the period of September 17, 2017 through December 4, 2019, Respondent Behdadnia, as the Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Pharmacy, failed to retain the required records of acquisition and disposition on the licensed pharmacy premise to account for an inventory overage of oxycodone 30 mg totaling 22,257 tablets. In addition, no records of acquisition were available for various drug samples. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraph 87 above as though set forth in full herein.

OTHER MATTERS

92. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit
Number PHY 43361 issued to Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century
Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and

Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, then Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, 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 PHY 43361 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 43361 is reinstated if it is revoked.

- 93. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 43361 issued to Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, while Joseph Amin was serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, partner, or in any other position with management or control, and had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the licensee was disciplined, Joseph Amin 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 PHY 43361 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 43361 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 94. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacist License Number RPH No. 45285 issued to Davood Behdadnia, Davood Behdadnia shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacist License Number RPH 45285 is placed on probation or until Pharmacist License Number RPH 45285 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 95. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit
 Number PHY 43361 issued to Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century
 Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and
 Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, while Davood Behdadnia was serving as a
 manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, partner, or in any other
 position with management or control, and had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any
 conduct for which the licensee was disciplined, Davood Behdadnia 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 PHY 43361 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 43361 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:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 43361, issued to Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary;
- 2. Prohibiting Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 43361, issued to Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, is placed on probation or revoked;
- 3. Revoking or suspending Pharmacist License Number 45285 issued to Davood Behdadnia;
- 4. Prohibiting Davood Behdadnia from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 43361, issued to Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, Inc., doing business as Century Beverly Hills Pharmacy, with Joseph Amin as 51% Shareholder, CEO, and President, and Davood Behdadnia as 49% Shareholder, Secretary, is placed on probation or revoked;
- 5. Prohibiting Davood Behdadnia from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacist License Number RPH 45285 issued to Davood Behdadnia is placed on probation or revoked;

1	6.	Ordering responde	ents Pharmacy and Behdadnia to pay the Board of Pharmacy the	
2	reasonable	able costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and		
3	Professions	Professions Code section 125.3; and,		
4	7.	Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.		
5				
6	DATED:	5/5/2022	Signature on File	
7			ANNE SODERGREN Executive Officer	
8			Board of Pharmacy Department of Consumer Affairs State of California	
9			State of California Complainant	
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