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**BEFORE THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2017-033722

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**CHRISTOPHER WYKE SANGDAHL,
M.D.
2433 Vista Drive
Upland, CA 91784**

A C C U S A T I O N

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**Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. G 60317,**

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Respondent.

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PARTIES

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1. Christine J. Lally (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

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2. On or about June 8, 1987, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317 to Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2021, unless renewed.

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1 **CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Gross Negligence)**

3 6. Respondent has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317 to
4 disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of
5 the Code, in that he committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A¹ as more
6 particularly alleged hereinafter.

7 7. On or about October 27, 2014, Patient A, a then 21-year old female, presented with
8 complaints of depression, alcohol abuse, mood swings, anxiety and paranoia. Patient A was
9 evaluated by Respondent, who diagnosed Patient A with Bipolar I Disorder, symptomatic, and
10 Alcohol Dependence, symptomatic.

11 8. Respondent prescribed Lamictal² to Patient A with instructions to take an initial dose
12 of 50 mg per day for seven days (week 1), 100 mg per day for seven days (week 2), 150 mg per
13 day for seven days (week 3), and 200 mg per day for nine days (week 4).

14 9. Medical records for this visit indicate Patient A signed an informed consent which
15 listed Lamictal, but did not list the potential risks and side effects of the medication. Records for
16 this visit also do not document any discussion with Patient A regarding the initial dose being
17 higher than recommended by the manufacturer and the increase in dosage being more aggressive
18 than recommended by the manufacturer.

19 10. After taking the medication as directed by Respondent, after approximately two
20 weeks, Patient A developed Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis.³

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22 ¹ Patient identity has been withheld for patient privacy purposes. Respondent is aware of
the identity of the patient referred to herein.

23 ² Lamictal is a brand name for lamotrigine, an anticonvulsant medication commonly used
24 to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorder. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires a black
25 box warning to warn patients for risks of Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal
26 Necrolysis. According to the Physicians' Desk Reference, a low initial dose and a gradual
increase in dosage is recommended as follows: 25 mg per day for two weeks (weeks 1 and 2); 50
mg per day for two weeks (weeks 3 and 4), 100 mg per day for one week (week 5), then 200 mg
per day thereafter (week 6 onward).

27 ³ Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome (SJS) and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) is a serious
28 skin condition that causes the skin to develop rashes and blisters. It also causes extensive damage
to the mucous membranes resulting in sores and blisters in the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals.

1 11. Respondent committed gross negligence in his care and treatment of Patient A, which
2 included, but is not limited to:

3 A. Paragraphs 6 through 10, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and
4 realleged as if fully set forth herein;

5 B. Respondent failed to prescribe a sufficiently low initial dose of Lamictal to Patient
6 A, Respondent failed to prescribe an appropriate gradual increase in dosage of
7 Lamictal to Patient A, and Respondent failed to discuss, and/or failed to document the
8 discussion of, all the risks and side effects of Lamictal and/or the risks and side
9 effects of the alternative prescribing pattern of Lamictal with Patient A to obtain
10 proper informed consent.

11 **PRAYER**

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

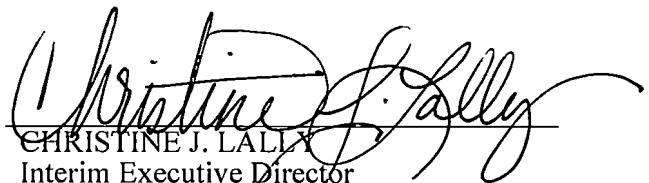
14 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 60317, issued
15 to Respondent Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D.;

16 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Respondent Christopher Wyke
17 Sangdahl, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

18 3. Ordering Respondent Christopher Wyke Sangdahl, M.D., if placed on probation, to
19 pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and

20 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

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22 DATED: JUN 03 2020


CHRISTINE J. LALLY
Interim Executive Director
Medical Board of California
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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