

BEFORE THE  
OREGON MEDICAL BOARD  
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
RAJNINDER KAUR JUTLA, MD	)	DEFAULT FINAL ORDER ON
LICENSE NO. MD27622	)	RECONSIDERATION
	)	

1.

The Oregon Medical Board (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating and disciplining certain health care providers, including physicians, in the State of Oregon. Rajninder Kaur Jutla, MD (Licensee) is a licensed physician in the State of Oregon and holds an active medical license.

2.

**History of the case.**

On September 13, 2019, the Board sent to Licensee by regular and certified mail and electronic mail a Complaint and Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action [Notice] in which the Board proposed to take disciplinary action. The Board’s Notice informed Licensee of her right to request a hearing, and that the “...Board must receive Licensee’s written request for hearing within twenty-one (21) days of the mailing of this Notice to Licensee.” The Notice also informed Licensee that if she failed to submit a request for hearing or failed to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Board may issue a final order by default. Licensee failed to submit a timely request for hearing. Instead, Licensee submitted a request for hearing through her attorney (who holds a license to practice law in the State of Washington) on October 15, 2019, which was 32 days after the Notice was issued. On December 9, 2019, Licensee submitted a written request to accept her late request for hearing. On January 9, 2020, the Board reviewed the record, to include Licensee’s submittal to accept the late hearing request and voted to issue a Default Final Order. On March 5, 2020, the Board issued a Default Final Order that revoked the

1 license of Licensee to practice medicine and assessed a civil penalty of \$5,000, which was  
2 mailed to Licensee on March 9, 2020. On May 8, 2020, Licensee submitted to the Board a  
3 Petition for Reconsideration of Default Final Order and Request for Stay of Enforcement of  
4 Default Final Order [hereinafter Petition for Reconsideration]. The Petition for Reconsideration  
5 was granted on June 19, 2020, by the Board's Executive Director. The Board has now reviewed  
6 the Petition for Reconsideration and has analyzed the record and Default Final Order in light of  
7 Licensee's petition and information provided therein, and now issues this Default Final Order on  
8 Reconsideration.

9 3.

10 **Licensee's request for reconsideration.**

11 In the petition for reconsideration, Licensee requests that the Board withdraw its Default  
12 Order and to refer this case for a contested case hearing. Licensee bases this request on three  
13 main contentions. The first, that the Board applied the incorrect legal standard in determining  
14 whether Licensee's request was untimely. Second, even if the Board applied the correct legal  
15 standard, the Board failed to adequately explain its rationale. Third, the Board should revisit its  
16 determination based upon new information provided in the petition.

17 In the petition, Licensee apologized for her tardiness for submitting her request for  
18 hearing beyond the 21-day deadline specified in the Notice that the Board issued on September  
19 13, 2019. Licensee contends that the Board incorrectly stated in the Default Order that the  
20 deadline to submit a request for hearing was October 3, 2019, and not October 4, 2019. The  
21 Board agrees that the deadline for Licensee to have submitted her request for hearing was  
22 October 4, 2019, in accordance with OAR 137-003-0520.

23 Licensee further contends that the Board applied the wrong legal standard when it  
24 reviewed her failure to timely request a hearing. Licensee submits that the Board should have  
24 applied the standard set forth in OAR 137-003-0003(1)(a) (agency may accept the late request  
25 only if the cause of failure was beyond respondent's "reasonable control") instead of the standard  
26 relied upon by the Board in its default order, set forth in OAR 137-003-0528(1)(b) and (d).

1 Licensee more specifically contends that because the case was not a contested case hearing  
2 conducted by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), it was by definition not a contested case  
3 hearing, because the Board rejected Licensee’s late request for a hearing, with the Order signed  
4 by the Vice Chair of the Board and that it was approved by the Board without any ALJ  
5 involvement.

6 Without accepting Licensee’s contention that the Board applied the incorrect legal  
7 standard, the Board will nevertheless apply the standard set forth in OAR 137-003-0003(1)(a)<sup>1</sup> in  
8 the alternative, which provides that an agency may accept a late request only if the cause for  
9 failure to timely request the hearing was beyond the “reasonable control” of the party.

10 The Board will now consider the particulars in Licensee’s reconsideration request. In  
11 her petition, Licensee states that she is licensed in Oregon, Washington, and California, and until  
12 recently, she maintained three clinics where she treats patients, two in Washington state and one  
13 in Lake Oswego, Oregon. During September and October 2019, Licensee states that she spent  
14 much of her time in Vancouver, Washington, and Los Angeles, California. Licensee asserts that  
15 she was away from her Seattle office from September 13 until September 25, 2019, and that the  
16 Board's Notice was delivered to her Seattle clinic while she was out of the state. It was received  
17 by Licensee’s former office manager, who did not forward the Notice to Licensee or let her  
18 know it had arrived; instead she left it in the Seattle clinic. Licensee also asserts that she did not  
19 receive any advance warning from the Board that she would be receiving a Notice or that she  
20 would need to request a hearing in order to be entitled to further proceedings in this matter.  
21 Licensee states that the Notice is “nine pages long, and the notice of the 21-day deadline to  
22 request a hearing appears on the eighth page and is not highlighted or emphasized in any way.  
23 By the time [Licensee] became aware of the Complaint and the deadline for seeking a hearing,  
24 the deadline was by then only eight or nine days away.” (Petition for Reconsideration, page 7,  
24 lines 13-17.) In making this assertion, Licensee acknowledged that she was aware of the Notice

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26 <sup>1</sup> OAR 137-003-0000 provides that an agency that does not use an ALJ assigned by the Office of Administrative  
Hearings may adopt any or all of the Attorney General’s Model Rules in OAR 137-003-0001 to 137-003-0092, or  
any of the OAH rules (OAR 137-003-0501 to ORS 137-003-0700), or a combination of both.

1 and the impending deadline eight or nine days prior to the expiration of the 21-days to submit a  
2 request for hearing and did not do so.

3 Licensee also contends that she had felt: “oppressed and vulnerable” during her May  
4 2019 interview before the Board’s Investigation Committee,<sup>2</sup> and that she was further surprised  
5 that the Notice contained allegations that had not been mentioned at her interview or in her  
6 Interim Stipulated Order with the Board. Licensee states that for “those reasons, she believed it  
7 was critical to obtain legal representation before engaging again with the Board; instead of  
8 reaching out to the Board herself to request a hearing, she contacted several lawyers and was  
9 unable to obtain legal representation in Oregon until after the deadline to request a hearing had  
10 passed. Some of the 21-day period passed while [Licensee] reached out to Washington lawyers  
11 with whom she already had relationships; she did not initially understand that these lawyers  
12 could not represent her in this Oregon matter. Unlike her experience with the Interim Stipulated  
13 Order, she received no communication from Board staff inquiring about her response.”

14 Licensee avers that also during this time, she was under considerable physical and mental  
15 stress from numerous sources, “...experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety caused by  
16 a federal matter in Washington, a Washington disciplinary matter, and this matter.” Licensee  
17 adds that during this time the demands on her of running her practice were unusually high: a staff  
18 member at her Seattle clinic quit her employment while she was out of the office for a period of  
19 time in California. And finally, Licensee is the single mother of one child, and was also

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] Licensee states that this “is an  
23 unusual combination of experiences to have occurred during the running of [Licensee’s] 21-day  
24 period to request a hearing.” As a result, Licensee contends that her “tardiness in requesting a  
24 hearing was attributable to “good cause” or was beyond her reasonable control.” (Petition for  
25 Reconsideration, page 9, lines 6-7.)

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>2</sup> This interview took place on May 2, 2019. Licensee elected to appear before the Investigation Committee without being accompanied by legal counsel.

**Board review of the Petition for Reconsideration.**

Having identified Licensee's contentions and detailed explanation in support of her petition, the Board will now review the record for this case on reconsideration.

In the Notice issued on September 13, 2019, the Board proposed to take disciplinary action by imposing up to the maximum range of potential sanctions identified in ORS 677.205(2), to include the revocation of license, a \$10,000 civil penalty per violation, and assessment of costs, against Licensee for violations of the Medical Practice Act, to wit: ORS 677.190(1)(a) unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, as defined in ORS 677.188(4)(a) any conduct or practice contrary to recognized standards of ethics of the medical profession or any conduct or practice which does or might constitute a danger to the health or safety of a patient or the public; ORS 677.190(4) obtaining any fee by fraud or misrepresentation; ORS 677.190(13) gross or repeated acts of negligence; ORS 677.190(20) making a fraudulent claim; and ORS 677.190(24) prescribing controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose. The Board's Notice informed Licensee of her right to request a hearing, and that the "...Board must receive Licensee's written request for hearing within twenty-one (21) days of the mailing of this Notice to Licensee." The Notice also informed Licensee that if she failed to submit a request for hearing or failed to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Board may issue a final order by default. Licensee failed to submit a timely request for hearing. Instead, Licensee submitted a request for hearing through her attorney (who holds a license to practice law in the State of Washington) on October 15, 2019, which was 32 days after the Notice was issued. The Board informed Licensee's counsel by letter dated October 21, 2019, that the request was untimely. The Board received a letter, dated December 9, 2019, from an Oregon licensed attorney retained by Licensee, which explained that Licensee did not ignore the Board's Notice, and "...made efforts to retain an attorney to assist her in preparing and submitting her request for hearing." Counsel requested that the Board accept Licensee's late request for hearing.

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1           The Board reviewed the letter submitted by Licensee’s legal counsel explaining the  
2 circumstances of her failure to submit a timely request for hearing and accepted the  
3 representations made by counsel in that letter. In addition, the Board has now reviewed and  
4 accepts Licensee’s factual representations in her petition for reconsideration. As a result, there is  
5 no factual dispute for the Board to address in its analysis. The legal standard that the Board  
6 applies to its review of this late request for hearing is found in OAR 137-003-0528(1)(b) and (d),  
7 which states:

8           (1)(b) The agency may accept any other late hearing request only if:

9           (A) There was good cause for the failure to timely request the hearing, unless other  
10 applicable statutes or agency rules provide a different standard; and

11           (B) The agency receives the request before the entry of a final order by default or before  
12 60 calendar days after the entry of the final order by default, unless other applicable  
statutes or agency rules provide a different timeframe.

13           (d) In determining whether to accept a late hearing request, the agency may require the  
14 request to be supported by an affidavit or other writing that explains why the request for  
15 hearing is late and may conduct such further inquiry as it deems appropriate.

16 It is apparent from the record of correspondence in this case, to include the explanation provided  
17 by Licensee’s legal counsel and in the petition for reconsideration, that the Board’s Notice was  
18 promptly sent to Licensee, that she was aware of her right to be represented by legal counsel and  
19 of her right to request a hearing, and that she consulted with or called three different legal  
20 counsel prior to the passage of the 21 days provided to request a hearing, which was due on  
21 October 4, 2019. Licensee did not submit a request for hearing until October 15, 2019. After the  
22 Board’s letter of response, Licensee submitted an explanation for the late request on December 9,  
23 2019. The question for the Board is whether there was good cause for Licensee’s failure to  
24 timely request a hearing. OAR 137-003-0501(7) states that:

24           ...“good cause” exists when an action, delay or failure to act arises from an excusable  
25 mistake, surprise, excusable neglect, reasonable reliance on the statement of a party or  
26 agency relating to procedural requirements, or from fraud, misrepresentation, or other  
misconduct of a party or agency participating in the proceeding.

1 In the alternative, the Board will also consider whether Licensee has demonstrated under  
2 OAR 137-003-0003(1)(a) that the cause for Licensee’s late request for hearing was beyond her  
3 “reasonable control.”

4 Licensee’s own petition and explanation acknowledges that she “[Licensee] became  
5 aware of the Complaint and the deadline for seeking a hearing, the deadline was by then only  
6 eight or nine days away.” As a result, Licensee had more than a week to consult with counsel of  
7 her choice, or even without legal consultation, submit a timely request for hearing to the Board.  
8 The Board’s Notice in paragraph 4 clearly set forth the deadline to request a hearing.<sup>3</sup> In  
9 addition, it is noted that when the Board sent the Notice to Licensee, it was accompanied by a  
10 cover letter that stated the following: “Your request for a hearing must be received by the Board  
11 on or before **October 4, 2019.**” The letter goes on to state: “Failure to request a hearing waives  
12 your right to hearing and will result in the Board issuing a default order.” Although Licensee  
13 asserted that the notice about her right to request a hearing “...only appears on the eighth page  
14 and is not highlighted or emphasized in any way,” Licensee did in fact receive more than one  
15 explanation about her right to request a hearing. The seriousness of this proceeding was  
16 highlighted by the Board’s proposed discipline, which was to revoke her license to practice  
17 medicine in the State Oregon.

18 The Board also observes that Licensee has been licensed to practice medicine in Oregon  
19 since 2007. It was her choice to maintain multiple practice locations in multiple states, and her  
20 responsibility to manage her professional affairs in an ethical and timely matter in each  
21 jurisdiction that granted her a license. Furthermore, Licensee was no stranger to legal  
22 proceedings, having been the subject of a federal indictment for conspiracy, receiving illegal  
23 kickbacks, and health care fraud in July of 2019.

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25 <sup>3</sup> “Licensee is entitled to a hearing as provided by the Administrative Procedures Act (chapter 183), Oregon Revised  
26 Statutes. Licensee may be represented by counsel at the hearing. If Licensee desires a hearing, the Board must  
receive Licensee’s written request for hearing within twenty-one (21) days of the mailing of this Notice to Licensee.  
Upon receipt of a request for a hearing, the Board will notify Licensee of the time and place of the hearing.”

1 In addition, Licensee frequently corresponded with a Board investigator and a Board staff  
2 person by email between January 25, 2019, and July 8, 2019. On July 8, 2019, a Board staff  
3 person asked Licensee by email to confirm her correct mailing address (which was a Seattle,  
4 Washington address) with the Board. Licensee confirmed that the Seattle address was correct.  
5 The Board sent the Notice to the confirmed address. Licensee had ample opportunity to submit  
6 either a letter or an email to the Board or to a Board investigator or staff person requesting a  
7 hearing to preserve her right to a hearing. She made the decision not to do so.  
8

9 In reviewing this issue, the Board has accepted Licensee's factual representations about  
10 the circumstances surrounding her late request for hearing, but concludes that Licensee has **not**  
11 demonstrated good cause for her failure to timely request a hearing, and that the cause for her  
12 late request for hearing was **not** beyond her "reasonable control." While Licensee may have felt  
13 emotional distress about going through an investigative interview before the Board's  
14 Investigative Committee, that is not an uncommon experience for many licensees facing the  
15 potential of a disciplinary action and would remind any reasonable licensee of the seriousness of  
16 the process. The health issues raised by Licensee were elective procedures and did not represent  
17 a health crisis that was either unexpected or placed her in the hospital for emergency or critical  
18 care that would prevent her from communicating with the Board. It is apparent to the Board that  
19 Licensee made a conscious choice not to file a timely request for hearing, but chose instead to  
20 seek and confer with legal counsel before submitting a request for hearing through her legal  
21 counsel on October 15, 2019.

22 Licensee has not set forth a basis to conclude that her failure to request a hearing within  
23 the time specified is attributable to an excusable mistake or neglect, surprise nor any other reason  
24 or circumstance that would constitute good cause for Licensee not to submit a timely request for  
24 hearing. Neither has Licensee set forth a factual basis for the Board to conclude that the cause of  
25 her failure to submit a timely request for hearing was beyond her "reasonable control." As a  
26 result, the Board concludes that Licensee has waived her right to a hearing and stands in default.

1 The Board has elected in this case to designate the record of proceedings to date, which consists  
2 of Licensee’s file with the Board as the record for purposes of proving a prima facie case, to  
3 includes Licensee’s submissions to the Board, pursuant to ORS 183.417(4).

4 5.

5 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

6 Licensee is a board-certified anesthesiologist and pain medicine specialist who practices  
7 medicine in multiple locations in the State of Washington and in Lake Oswego, Oregon. The  
8 Board conducted a review of Licensee’s management and treatment of chronic pain patients  
9 (Patients A – D), which revealed a pattern of practice that constituted a danger to the health and  
10 safety of patients and breached the standard of care<sup>4</sup>. The Center for Disease Control and  
11 Prevention (CDC) and Oregon’s task force adopted guidelines for the safe prescribing of opioids,  
12 which set the standard of care and are designed to ensure the health and safety of patients. The  
13 American Medical Association’s Code of Medical Ethics Opinion 9.6.6 states that it is the  
14 physician’s ethical responsibility to “prescribe drugs, devices, and other treatments based solely  
15 on medical considerations, patient need, and reasonable expectation of effectiveness for the  
16 particular patient.” The Opinion further states at 9.6.6(c)(i) that physicians should “avoid direct  
17 or indirect influence of financial interest on prescribing decision by declining any kind of  
18 payment or compensation from a drug company or device manufacturer for prescribing its  
19 products.”

20 5.1 Licensee’s acts and conduct that violated the Medical Practice Act follow:

21 5.1.1 Licensee maintained the identified patients on a long-term course of  
22 controlled substances in a manner that does or might constitute a danger to the  
23 health or safety of her patients and that breached the standard of care;

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<sup>4</sup> See the Oregon Chronic Opioid Prescribing Guidelines and the CDC 2016 Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.

1 5.1.2 Licensee maintained patients on excessive dosages of opiates with  
2 morphine equivalent doses (MED) in excess of 50, even though patient function  
3 and pain failed to improve over time;

4 5.1.3 Licensee did not prescribe the lowest effective dosage of opioids, with  
5 initial dosages of opioids for patients in excess of MED 50 per day, and for one  
6 patient, in excess of 90 MED;

7 5.1.4 Licensee failed to conduct an adequate risk assessment during the course  
8 of treatment;

9 5.1.5 Licensee failed to consistently check the Oregon Prescription Drug  
10 Monitoring Program (PDMP) at the inception and during the course of treatment  
11 with opioids;

12 5.1.6 Licensee failed to identify and address evidence of aberrant departures  
13 from the treatment plan, to include the use of Schedule I drugs detected in urine  
14 drug screens (UDS).

15 5.2 Specific patient care concerns are set forth in the paragraphs below:

16 5.2.1 Patient A, a 25-year-old male, presented to Licensee on October 8, 2017,  
17 via a physician referral with a three-year history of chronic back pain after major spinal  
18 reconstructive surgery. Patient A's treatment history included prescriptions from  
19 different providers, to include oxycodone HCL, 5 mg, #30 on June 17, 2016, and  
20 tramadol (Ultram, Schedule IV) HCL, 300 mg, #30 on September 20, 2017. Licensee  
21 conducted an evaluation, with normal findings on the physical examination. Patient A  
22 did not report a history of psychiatric issues or substance abuse. Without querying the  
23 PDMP, Licensee prescribed tapentadol (Nucynta IR, Schedule II) 50 mg, daily; tramadol  
24 (Ultram, Schedule IV) 100 mg; diclofenac, 75 mg; and tizanidine (Zanaflex) 4 mg; as  
24 well as Naloxone nasal spray, 4 mg to use if necessary in case of overdose, at the first  
25 visit. The patient chart contains an unsigned Material Risk Notification (MRN). During  
26 a second office visit on November 15, 2017, Patient A reported that the pharmacy would

1 not fill the prescription for Nucynta. A UDS was consistent with the prescription for  
2 tramadol. Licensee noted Schizophrenia in Patient A's history and discussed various  
3 treatment options with Patient A. Licensee discontinued Nucynta and tramadol, and  
4 initiated treatment with oxycodone HCL (Schedule II), 10 mg, 4 times a day #112;  
5 Oxycontin (Schedule II) 10 mg, 1 daily, #28; and baclofen (Lioresal) 10 mg, 1 daily #28  
6 (total MED 75). Licensee initiated treatment with an excessive dose of opioids<sup>5</sup> instead  
7 of seeking to prescribe the lowest effective dose of short acting opioids for a limited  
8 duration. Licensee also failed to check the Oregon PDMP during the course of treatment  
9 to ensure that Patient A was receiving medications from a single source.

10 5.2.2 Patient B, a 45-year-old morbidly obese male, presented to Licensee by  
11 way of referral on December 21, 2016, with a history of osteoarthritis of the knees,  
12 sciatica, and obstructive sleep apnea. Licensee obtained an extensive history and  
13 physical exam. Licensee assessed Patient B as low risk for opioid dependence, discussed  
14 treatment options, and had Patient B sign an opioid agreement. Licensee recommended  
15 physical therapy and prescribed oxycodone 15 mg, 1 tablet every 4 – 6 hours, #140  
16 (MED 112); diclofenac, 75 mg, 1 tablet every 12 hours #56; and ranitidine, 150 mg, 1  
17 tablet daily, # 28. Patient B returned to Licensee's clinic monthly, and was authorized  
18 medication refills at the same or similar dosage. Chart review reveals that on  
19 December 13, 2017, Licensee's medication regimen for Patient B included oxycodone,  
20 15 mg, 1 tablet every 4 – 6 hours, #140; diclofenac, 75 mg, 1 tablet every 12 hours, #56;  
21 ranitidine, 150 mg, 1 tablet daily, # 28; and Oxycontin, 30 mg, 2 daily, #56.<sup>6</sup> Patient B  
22 underwent surgical repair of a bladder fistula and colon resection in February 2018. On  
23 May 30, 2018, Licensee discontinued Oxycontin, and maintained Patient B on  
24 oxycodone, 15 mg, 1 tablet every 4 hours, #168;<sup>7</sup> diclofenac, 75 mg, 1 tablet every 12  
24 hours, #56; ranitidine, 150 mg, 1 tablet daily, # 28. Licensee maintained Patient B on a

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26 <sup>5</sup> An MED of 75 is an excessive dosage to initiate treatment with an opiate. See the Oregon Acute and Chronic  
Opioid Prescribing Guidelines.

<sup>6</sup> MED of 202.

<sup>7</sup> MED 135.

1 long-term course of an excessive amount of opiates, well over 50 MED a day. Licensee  
2 also failed to check the Oregon Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) during  
3 the course of treatment to aid in the monitoring of Patient B's narcotic intake.

4 5.2.3 Patient C, a 52-year-old male, was referred to Licensee in 2013 with a  
5 history of chronic pain in his back and shoulders from motor vehicle accidents. Licensee  
6 performed a history and physical examination and discussed various treatment options  
7 with Patient C. Licensee maintained Patient C on oxycodone, 15 mg, 4 tablets daily,  
8 #112 (MED 90). On August 5, 2015, Licensee's medication regimen for Patient C  
9 included morphine ER (Schedule II) 15 mg, 1 tablet every 12 hours, #56; oxycodone, 15  
10 mg, 1 tablet every 8 hours, #84; and oxycontin, 30 mg, 1 tablet every 12 hours, # 56  
11 (MED 187.5). On March 15, 2017, Licensee's medication regimen for Patient C  
12 included oxycodone, 15 mg, 1 tablet every 6 hours, #112; and Oxycontin, 40 mg, 1 tablet  
13 every 12 hours, # 56 (MED 210). Patient C underwent periodic urine drug screens  
14 (UDS) that reflected aberrant use of Schedule I and II substances during the course of  
15 treatment. A UDS in August of 2014 detected the presence of clonazepam (Schedule  
16 IV), which was not prescribed by a treating physician for Patient C. A UDS in  
17 August 2016 detected methamphetamine and THC. Additionally, a UDS in September  
18 2017 detected methamphetamine and amphetamine, unexpected positive test results  
19 indicating that Patient C was self-administering Schedule I substances. Licensee's chart  
20 notes reflect that she failed to address these occasions of aberrant behavior by Patient C,  
21 to include conducting a new risk assessment or to increase the frequency of a UDS.  
22 Licensee's conduct unnecessarily exposed Patient C to the risk of harm, by maintaining  
23 this patient on excessive dosages of opiates for approximately four years and by failing to  
24 address Patient C's repeated violations of the treatment plan by his self-administering  
24 Schedule I and II substances.

25 5.2.4 Patient D, a 33-year-old male with a history of chronic back pain, first  
26 presented to Licensee in September 2015. Licensee performed a history and physical

1 examination and initiated treatment with oxycodone, 45 mg daily (MED 67.5), and  
2 gabapentin (Neurontin), 300 mg. On March 16, 2016, Licensee maintained Patient D on  
3 oxycodone, 15 mg, 4 tablets daily, #112; Oxycontin, 40 mg, 2 tablets daily, #56; and  
4 gabapentin, 900 mg, 4 tablets daily (MED 210). Licensee switched Patient D to  
5 hydromorphone (Schedule II) later that year. On November 23, 2016, Licensee  
6 prescribed Oxycontin, 15 mg, 1 tablet per day, #28; hydromorphone IR, 8mg, 4 daily,  
7 #112; and hydromorphone ER, 8 mg, 2 daily (MED 214.5). On May 31, 2017, the  
8 medication regimen included hydromorphone IR, 8 mg, 4 – 6 daily, #140;  
9 hydromorphone ER, 8 mg, 1 daily, #28 (MED 160 - 224); and diazepam (Schedule IV)  
10 for pre-flight anxiety. Licensee subsequently tried to taper Patient D off of opioids, but  
11 on February 7, 2018, Licensee remained on hydromorphone IR, 8 mg, 3 daily, #84 (MED  
12 96), and ropinirole 1 mg, 1 daily.

13 5.3 On July 24, 2019, the United States District Court for the Western District of  
14 Washington at Seattle issued Licensee an indictment, to include charges of Conspiracy to Pay  
15 and Receive Kickbacks, Receipt of Kickbacks, and Health Care Fraud due to Licensee's  
16 relationship and dealings with the company Insys Therapeutics. The indictment outlines an  
17 incident that occurred on or about August 30, 2013, in Portland, Oregon, at which Licensee  
18 forged the signature of another healthcare provider on a sign-in sheet for an professional  
19 education event in which Licensee was the paid speaker. According to the indictment, the event  
20 was actually a birthday dinner with friends, and no presentation was made by Licensee; however,  
21 Licensee was compensated \$800 as if she had delivered a presentation.

22 5.4 On May 21, 2019, Licensee voluntarily entered into an Interim Stipulated Order  
23 with the Board in which she agreed to cease the prescribing of all controlled substances pending  
24 the completion of the Board's investigation.

24 5.5 Licensee is not a person in the military service of the United States.

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**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based upon its examination of the record in this case, the Board finds that the acts and conduct of Licensee described above are supported by reliable, probative and substantive evidence and violated the Medical Practice Act, as set forth below:

6.1 Licensee's conduct unnecessarily exposed Patient A to the risk of harm and violated the standard of care, in violation of ORS 677.190(1)(a) unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, as defined in ORS 677.188(4)(a) any conduct or practice contrary to recognized standards of ethics of the medical profession or any conduct or practice which does or might constitute a danger to the health or safety of a patient or the public; ORS 677.190(13) repeated acts of negligence; and ORS 677.190(24) prescribing controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose.

6.2 Licensee's conduct unnecessarily exposed Patient B to the risk of harm, particularly in view of his comorbidities (obesity and sleep apnea) and violated the standard of care, in violation of ORS 677.190(1)(a) unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, as defined in ORS 677.188(4)(a) any conduct or practice contrary to recognized standards of ethics of the medical profession or any conduct or practice which does or might constitute a danger to the health or safety of a patient or the public; ORS 677.190(13) repeated acts of negligence; and ORS 677.190(24) prescribing controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose.

6.3 Licensee's conduct unnecessarily exposed Patient C to the risk of harm and breached the standard of care, in violation of ORS 677.190(1)(a) unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, as defined in ORS 677.188(4)(a) any conduct or practice contrary to recognized standards of ethics of the medical profession or any conduct or practice which does or might constitute a danger to the health or safety of a patient or the public; ORS 677.190(13) gross negligence; and ORS 677.190(24) prescribing controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose.

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1 penalty of \$5,000, payable in full within 90 days from the date this Order is signed by the Board  
2 Vice Chair. Violation of the terms of this Order constitutes a violation of the Medical Practice  
3 Act.

4 DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2020.

5 OREGON MEDICAL BOARD  
6 State of Oregon



7  
8 KATHLEEN M. HARDER, MD  
9 BOARD CHAIR

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14 **Right to Judicial Review**

15 **NOTICE:** You are entitled to judicial review of this Order. Judicial review may be obtained by  
16 filing a petition for review with the Oregon Court of Appeals within 60 days after the final order  
17 is served upon you. See ORS 183.482. If this Order was personally delivered to you, the date of  
18 service is the day it was mailed, not the day you received it. If you do not file a petition for  
19 judicial review within the 60 days' time period, you will lose your right to appeal.