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

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In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)

Isaac Eliaz, M.D.

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A73390

Respondent.

File No. 12-2007-187090

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reprimand is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on August 25, 2010.

IT IS SO ORDERED July 26, 2010 .

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By:

Shelton Duruisseau, Ph.D., Chair Panel A

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Attorney General of California JOSE R. GUERRERO Supervising Deputy Attorney General JANE ZACK SIMON [SBN 116564] LAWRENCE A. MERCER [SBN 111898] Deputy Attorneys General 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004 Telephone: (415) 703-5544 (Simon) (415) 703-5539 Fax: (415) 703-5480 Attorneys for Complainant Medical Board of California	
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9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS	
10 11		CALIFORNIA
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12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against	Case No. 12-2007-187090
	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
14 15	ISAAC ELIAZ, M.D. 7064 Corline Ct. Suite A Sebastopol, CA 95472	DISCIPLINARY ORDER FOR PUBLIC REPRIMAND
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A73390	
17	Respondent.	
18		
19		EED by and between the parties to the above-
20	entitled proceedings that the following matters a	
21	PARTIES	
22		cutive Director of the Medical Board of
23	California (Medical Board or Board) and the Co	
24	times been brought and maintained solely in the	official capacity of the Board's Executive
25	Director. Complainant is represented in this mat	ter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General
26	of the State of California, by Jane Zack Simon a	nd Lawrence A. Mercer, Deputy Attorneys
27	General.	
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STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (12-2007-187090)

 Respondent Isaac Eliaz, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by Sharon Barclay Kime of Pacific West Law Group LLP, 213 Garcia Avenue, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.

3. On November 2, 2000, the Medical Board of California issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A73390 to Isaac Eliaz, M.D.. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 12-2007-187090.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 12-2007-187090 was filed before the Medical Board of California (Board), and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent, who timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 12-2007-187090 is attached as Exhibit A.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 12-2007-187090. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reprimand (Stipulation.)

6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

8. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 12-2007-187090, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for charges related to deficiencies in medical records and patient evaluation and assessment, he hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.

9. Respondent agrees to be bound by the Medical Board of California's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

10. This Stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this Stipulation without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing this Stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the Stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this Stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reprimand 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 facsimile or electronic copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reprimand, including facsimile or electronic signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

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1	DISCIPLINARY ORDER
2	A. <u>PUBLIC REPRIMAND</u>
- 3	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A73390 issued
4	to Respondent Isaac Eliaz, M.D. is hereby publicly reprimanded pursuant to California
5	Business and Professions Code section 2227. This Public Reprimand, issued in connection with
6	Respondent's conduct as set forth in Accusation No. 12-2007-187090, is as follows:
7	Between January and July, 2007, you failed to adequately evaluate and assess Patient
8	B.G., and to adequately and accurately document your care of Patient B.G Such
° 9	conduct constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to Business and Professions
9 10	Code section 2234.
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11	B. <u>OFFICE PROTOCOL</u>
12	Within 90 calendar days of the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall submit to
14	the Board or its designee for its prior approval, a detailed, written protocol for the evaluation and
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16	assessment of patients in Respondent's medical practice. Failure to fully comply with this
17	provision shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for further disciplinary action.
18	C. <u>CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM</u>
19	
20	Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to
21	the Board or its designee for its prior approval an educational program(s) or course(s) which shall
22	not be less than 40 hours. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall focus on the areas of
23	patient evaluation, assessment and medical records documentation, and shall be Category I
24	certified, limited to classroom, conference, or seminar settings. The educational program(s) or
25	course(s) shall be at respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical
26	Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Respondent shall complete the
27	program(s) or course(s) no later than 180 days after initial enrollment, unless the Board or its
28	program(s) or course(s) no fater than 180 days after initial enformment, unless the Board of its
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	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (12-2007-187090)

designee agrees in writing to a later time for completion. Respondent shall submit a certification ł of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after 2 successfully completing the program(s) or course(s), or not later than 15 days after the effective 3 4 date of the Decision, whichever is later. Failure to successfully complete the continuing medical 5 education required in this paragraph shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for 6 further disciplinary action. 7 **ACCEPTANCE** 8 I have carefully read this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public 9 Reprimand and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Sharon Barclay Kime. I understand the 10 Stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into 11 this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reprimand voluntarily, knowingly, 12 and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of 13 California. 14 15 DATED: June 18th, 2010 16 17 Respondent 18 APPROVAL 19 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Isaac Eliaz, M.D. the terms and conditions 20 and other matters contained in this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public 21 Reprimand. I approve its form and content. 22 23 6.19.2010 DATED: 24 SHARON BARCLAY KIME Pacific West Law Group LLP 25 Attorneys for Respondent 26 27 28 5

2 11	ENDORSEMENT The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reprimand is respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California. Dated: $\frac{6}{22}\frac{1000}{10}$
3 4 5 6	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California. Dated: $6/22/2010$
3 4 5 6	Dated: 6/22/2010
5	Dated: $\psi(\infty)$
6	EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Attorney General of California
7	Jon Jan Sen
11	(JANE ZACK SIMON LAWRENCE A. MERCER
8	Deputy Attorneys General Attorneys for Complainant
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	6 STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (12-2007-187090)

Exhibit A

		FILED
1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR.	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2	Attorney General of California Jose R. GUERRERO	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JANE ZACK SIMON	SACRAMENTO August 26 20 09 By Allice Mon ANALYST
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 116564	
5	455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004	
6	Telephone: (415) 703-5544 Fax: (415) 703-5480	
7	E-mail: Janezack.simon@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant	• • •
8	Medical Board of California	
		RE THE D OF CALIFORNIA
9	DEPARTMENT OF C	CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10	STATE OF C	CALIFORNIA
11]
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	
13		Case No. 12-2007-187090
14	ISAAC ELIAZ, M.D. 7064 Corline Ct, suite A	IB
15	SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472	ACCUSATION
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.	
17	A73390	
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20	Complainant alleges:	
21		RTIES
22	1. Barbara Johnston (Complainant) bri	ngs this Accusation solely in her official capacity
23	as the Executive Director of the Medical Board	
24		Medical Board of California issued Physician's
	and Surgeon's Certificate Number A73390 to Isa	
25	renewed and current, with an expiration date of	
26		110Gubt 51, 2010.
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1	JURISDICTION
2	3. This Accusation is brought before the Medical Board of California ¹ (Board),
3	Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section
4	references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
5	A. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty
6	under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked or suspended for a
7	period not to exceed one year; or the licensee may be placed on probation and may be
8	required to pay the costs of probation monitoring or may have such other action taken in
9	relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.
10	B. Section 2234 of the Code provides that the Medical Board shall take action
11	against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct
12	includes, but is not limited to:
13	"(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or
14	abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provision of this chapter
15	[Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].
16	"(b) Gross negligence.
17	"(c) Repeated negligent acts"
18	C. Section 2242 of the Code provides that the prescribing, dispensing or
19	furnishing dangerous drugs without an appropriate prior examination and a medical
20	indication constitutes unprofessional conduct.
21	D. Section 2266 of the Code provides that the failure of a physician and
22	surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate medical records constitutes unprofessional
23	conduct.
24	E. Health and Safety Code section 123110 provides that the failure of a
25	physician to provide a patient with copies of his or her medical record when requested
26	constitutes unprofessional conduct.
27	¹ The term "Board" means the Medical Board of California. "Division of Medical
28	Quality" shall also be deemed to refer to the Board.
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FIRST CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINE

2 (General Unprofessional Conduct, Gross Negligence, Repeated Negligent Acts, Prescribing 3 without Appropriate Examination, Refusal to Provide Records) 4 4. Respondent operates the Amitabha Medical Clinic and Healing Center 5 ("Amitabha") in Sebastopol, California. Respondent is not board certified in any specialty, but 6 specializes in integrative medicine. 7 Patient B.G. was a 59 year old man who presented to Amitabha on or about 5. 8 January 11, 2007 for an integrated medicine consultation and an evaluation of previously 9 diagnosed prostate cancer. Patient B.G. had received treatment and/or consultation from other 10 physicians, including a urologist, an oncologist and his primary care physician. He then elected 11 to seek care from respondent and his Amitabha clinic. Patient B.G. was at the time suffering 12 from a great deal of emotional and personal distress. 13 When Patient B.G. first presented to Amitabha on January 11, 2007, he 6. 14 completed a patient information form setting forth the name of his physician and the date of his 15 last physical examination. He was also provided with a written statement of "Office Financial 16 Policy" which indicated that Amitabha was not a primary care office, and that patients were 17 required to have a primary care physician. There is no other documentation in respondent's chart 18 for B.G. indicating that respondent's self-described role as a consultant was otherwise discussed 19 with B.G. at any time during his treatment with respondent. 20 21 Respondent was not available to see B.G. as a new patient, and B.G. was seen on 7. 22 January 11, 2007 by respondent's nurse practitioner. The nurse practitioner took some history, 23 and noted that B.G. was taking Avodart² on a daily basis. The nurse practitioner noted that B.G. 24 was emotionally labile and crying, and described him as "severely traumatized" by his son's 25 death. She noted that B.G.'s decision making skills were "compromised by his emotionality and 26 ² Avodart is a trade name for dutasteride. It is used to treat prostate enlargement. Avodart 27 is a prescription drug and a dangerous drug as defined by Business and Professions Code §4022.

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anger." The nurse practitioner documented B.G.'s decision to pursue a "watchful waiting approach" to his prostate cancer, and a plan to consult with respondent. The nurse practitioner's note reflects a review of records B.G. brought along with him. No physical examination was performed, there was no review of systems, no medical or surgical history was taken, and there was no request for additional records from other treating physicians.

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Following B.G.'s January 11 office visit, respondent discussed patient B.G. with 8. his nurse practitioner and reviewed the records B.G. had provided. Respondent's January 13, 2007 chart note sets forth a plan for a nutritional supplement program for the nurse practitioner to review with B.G.; a proposal for sodium phenylbutyrate ("SPB")³ treatment, which was to be discussed with the patient by the nurse practitioner and was to include discussion of possible benefits, potential side effects and the need for a low sodium diet; PPD testing⁴ as preparation for possible BCG treatment⁵; referral to UCSF for a doppler ultrasound and an MRI-S; and review of lab needs.

Patient B.G.'s next contact with the Amitabha clinic was with the nurse 9. 15 practitioner on January 15, 2007. The nurse practitioner's note for that contact reflects a 16 discussion of the consultation with respondent. Patient B.G. was directed to stop taking Avodart, 17 which had been prescribed by another physician; to obtain a series of lab tests; to obtain the 18 UCSF studies recommended by respondent; and, to implement a nutritional supplement program. 19 The chart note also reflects a discussion of the SPB therapy, B.G.'s weight was recorded for 20 purposes of calculating the dose of SPB, and a low sodium diet was advised. SPB therapy was 21 initiated and B.G. was given a prescription for sodium phenylbutyrate. A PPD test was 22 administered, and BCG treatment was started. No physical examination was performed, and 23 other than weight, no vital signs were taken. 24

³ Sodium Phenylbutyrate is a prescription drug and a dangerous drug as defined by 25 Business and Professions Code §4022. ⁴ PPD testing refers to a tuberculosis test. 26

⁵ BCG refers to an experimental therapy designed to enhance the immune system. BCG is a vaccine requiring a prescription, and is a dangerous drug as defined by Business and 27 Professions Code §4022.

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B.G. returned to see the nurse practitioner on February 7, 2007. He was noted to 1 10. have Gilbert's syndrome⁶ and hot flashes, as well as depression, anger and frustration. A ten 2 pound weight gain was noted (although no actual weight was recorded.) The nurse practitioner 3 discussed a "spring cleanse" and dietary adjustments. On February 28, 2007, the nurse 4 5 practitioner reviewed lab results with B.G. A slightly elevated blood glucose level was discussed; B.G. wanted to try glucophage and he was given a prescription for glucophage⁷. The plan was to 6 7 repeat laboratory tests in one month. The nurse practitioner had another follow-up with B.G. on 8 March 19, 2007. At that time B.G. reported that he felt much better, and that he continued to take 9 the SPB. No physical exam was performed and/or documented by the nurse practitioner at any of 10 these visits, and no vital signs were taken or recorded.

11 Patient B.G.'s first visit with respondent was on April 2, 2007. Respondent's chart 11. 12 for the visit contains a review of the nurse practitioner visits, lab tests and the results of the MRI-13 S and ultrasound studies. Respondent noted that B.G. was taking Avodart . He concluded that 14 there was some degree of metabolic syndrome⁸. For the first time, the chart noted allergies to 15 several medications, as well as a family history of heart disease and hyperlipidemia. Respondent 16 performed a pulse diagnosis from a Chinese medical view, but conducted no other physical 17 examination; no vital signs were recorded, and no medical or surgical history was taken. 18 Respondent documented B.G.'s emotional state was characterized by "a lot of anger" and 19 respondent described B.G. as crying and very tense at the time of the visit. Respondent's plan 20 was to proceed with "active watchful waiting" in accordance with B.G.'s wishes, to continue with 21 supplements, glucophage, exercise, nutrition and SPB, and to obtain further studies at UCSF. A

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⁶ Gilbert's syndrome is a mild liver disorder in which the liver doesn't properly process bilirubin.

⁷ Glucophage is an oral antidiabetic medication used to treat type 2 (non-insulin-dependent) diabetes. It is a prescription drug and a dangerous drug as defined in Business and Professions Code §4022.

⁸ Metabolic syndrome refers to a cluster of conditions that occur together, increasing the
 risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes. These conditions typically include increased blood
 pressure, elevated insulin levels, excess body fat around the waist or abnormal cholesterol levels.

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separate written chart note dated April 2, 2007, says "stop Avodart." B.G.'s SPB protocol was modified, and respondent referred B.G. for additional lab studies and for lipid and marker testing.

B.G. had an additional follow-up with the nurse practitioner on April 9, 2007.B.G.'s weight gain and diet was discussed. No physical exam was conducted, and no vital signs were taken or recorded.

B.G. saw respondent on May 14, 2007. Labs were reviewed, and B.G.'s
supplement program was modified. Respondent's record for the visit notes that B.G. was
concerned about a rising PSA, and that he had gained weight. Respondent discussed with B.G.
his elevated lipids and the possibility that he should consider statins and local therapy for prostate
cancer. Respondent again noted possible metabolic syndrome, and glucophage was discontinued.
No vitals were taken or recorded, and no physical examination was conducted.

14. Patient B.G. saw respondent for a final office visit on July 18, 2007. B.G. voiced
concern about a rise in his PSA and a 3 pound weight gain was noted. B.G. was described as
angry and upset. Respondent made adjustments to B.G.'s supplements, and his SPB dosage was
increased. No vitals were taken or recorded, and no physical examination was conducted.

- 17 15. Over the next several weeks, respondent and B.G. exchanged letters and e-mails.
 18 Respondent advised B.G. that his lipid panel was abnormal, and encouraged B.G. to follow-up
 19 with his primary care physician for medication management. Respondent recommended that
 20 B.G. discontinue the SPB due to his weight gain, and that he seriously consider local therapy for
 21 his prostate cancer.
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16. On August 26, 2007, Patient B.G. sent a written request, by fax, to respondent
requesting that all of his medical records, including "...notes, diagnosis, treatment plan, labs
prescribed and the complete course of treatment provided by you..." be sent to two specified
physicians. Respondent sent B.G. a letter on August 27, 2007 advising him that Amitabha would
only provide "labs and images," which had already been provided. This position was consistent
with Amitabha office policy. On the same date, respondent terminated his treatment relationship

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Accusation

1	with B.G. B.G. then sent two more letters to respondent, which included a number of
2	complaints, and a further demand for all of his medical records. Respondent contacted B.G. by
3	telephone and attempted to resolve his concerns. Respondent eventually provided B.G. with his
4	complete medical record.
5	ACTS OR OMISSIONS/VIOLATIONS
6	17. Respondent committed the following acts or omissions in his care and treatment of
7	B.G.:
8	A. Respondent provided medical treatment to B.G. over numerous office visits
9	
10	and for more than six months without ever conducting a thorough evaluation , which would have
11	included a medical/surgical history, review of systems and physical examination;
12	B. Respondent treated B.G. for prostate cancer over numerous office visits
13	and for more than six months without ever conducting a rectal or prostate examination, or any
14	physical examination;
15	C. Respondent treated B.G. with various modalities including SPB
16	therapy known to cause fluid retention-and noted concern for metabolic syndrome, over
17	numerous office visits and for more than six months without ever taking and/or recording any
18	vital signs;
19	D. Respondent discontinued the Avodart prescription issued to B.G. by
20	another physician without any communication or notification to the prescribing physician;
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22	E. B.G. was seen in respondent's practice and received treatment, including
23	prescriptions of various medications and supplements, over a period of nearly four months before
24	he was ever seen and evaluated by respondent, and before he was asked about drug allergies or
25	sensitivities.
26	F. Respondent failed to either provide B.G. with complete and adequate
27	informed consent regarding treatment with SPB or BCG, and regarding respondent's self-
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1	described status as a consultant, and/or failed to adequately document said informed consent.
2	G. Respondent provided treatment and prescribed several dangerous drugs
3	without conducting an appropriate prior medical examination, and without taking any steps to
4	communicate this information to B.G.'s primary or other treating physicians.
5	H. Respondent failed to provide B.G. with his complete medical
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7	record, despite several appropriate and specific requests for those records.
8	18. Respondent's conduct as set forth above constitutes general unprofessional
9	conduct and is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 2234 of the Code;
10	19. Respondent's conduct as set forth above constitutes gross negligence, and/or
11	repeated negligent acts and is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Sections 2234(b) and/or
12	2234(c) of the Code;
13	20. Respondent's conduct as set forth above constitutes prescribing without an
14	appropriate prior examination and is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 2242.
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16	21. Respondent's conduct as set forth above constitutes the failure to maintain
17	adequate and accurate medical records and is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Section
18	2266.
19	22. Respondent's conduct as set forth above constitutes a failure to provide medical
20	records upon request, and is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Health and Safety Code
21	section 123110.
22	PRAYER
23	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein
24	alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:
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27	A73390 issued to Isaac Eliaz, M.D.
28	2. Ordering respondent to pay probation costs in the event that he is placed on 8

Accusation

1	probation;
2	3. Revoking, suspending, or denying approval of respondent's authority to
3	supervise physician assistants; and
4	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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6	Dated: August 26, 2009
7	BARBARA JOHNSTON
8	Executive Director Medical Board of California
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