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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

JESUS LOVES YOU PHARMACY, INC., DBA BETTER LIFE PHARMACY, JOHN A. GENDY

Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 56846,

and

JOHN A. GENDY

Pharmacist License No. RPH 74410

Respondents.

Agency Case No. 7116

OAH No. 2023010773

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and 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 May 8, 2024.

It is so ORDERED on April 8, 2024.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By

Seung W. Oh, Pharm.D. Board President

ROB BONTA		
Shawn P. Cook		
MATTHEW A. KING		
Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 265691		
Los Angeles, CA 90013		
Facsimile: (916) 731-2126		
Attorneys for Complainant		
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
STATE OF C.	ALII UMUA	
In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 7116 OAH No. 2023010773	
JESUS LOVES YOU PHARMACY, INC.,	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF	
A. GENDY	LICENSE AND ORDER	
Pico Rivera, CA 90660		
Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 56846,		
and		
JOHN A. GENDY 838 N Azusa Ave #5		
West Covina, CA 91791		
Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH		
Respondents.		
IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGR	EED by and between the parties to the above-	
entitled proceedings that the following matters are	e true:	
<u>PARTIES</u>		
1. Anne Sodergren (complainant) is the	Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy	
(board). She brought this action solely in her office	cial capacity and is represented in this matter by	
Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of Calif	fornia, by Matthew A. King, Deputy Attorney	
General.		
	1	
	Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK Supervising Deputy Attorney General MATTHEW A. KING Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 265691 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 269-6303 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126 E-mail: Matthew.King@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant BEFOR BOARD OF P DEPARTMENT OF CO STATE OF C. In the Matter of the Accusation Against: JESUS LOVES YOU PHARMACY, INC., DBA BETTER LIFE PHARMACY, JOHN A. GENDY 9420 Slauson Ave. Pico Rivera, CA 90660 Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 56846, and JOHN A. GENDY 838 N. Azusa Ave. #5 West Covina, CA 91791 Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 74410 Respondents. IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGR entitled proceedings that the following matters are PART 1. Anne Sodergren (complainant) is the (board). She brought this action solely in her office Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California.	

- 2. On or about December 13, 2018, the board issued Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 56846 to Jesus Loves You Pharmacy, Inc., dba Better Life Pharmacy (New Life Pharmacy-Farmacia), John A. Gendy, CEO (respondent Better Life Pharmacy). The Pharmacy Permit was cancelled on October 14, 2021 due to a discontinuance of business notice effective September 28, 2020.
- 3. On or about January 29, 2016, the board issued Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410 to John A. Gendy (respondent Gendy). The Registered Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 28, 2025, unless renewed.
- 4. Respondent Better Life Pharmacy and respondent Gendy (collectively, "respondents") are represented in this proceeding by attorney Herbert L. Weinberg of the Fenton Law Group, LLP, located at 1990 South Bundy Drive, Suite 777, Los Angeles, California 90025.

JURISDICTION

- Accusation Number 7116 was filed before the board and properly served on respondents with all statutorily required documents on August 31, 2021. Respondents timely filed a Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 6. First Amended Accusation Number 7116 was filed before the board and properly served on respondents with all statutorily required documents on April 11, 2022. Pursuant to Government Code section 11507, any new charges were deemed controverted under Government Code section 11507.
- 7. Second Amended Accusation Number 7116 was filed before the board and properly served on respondents with all statutorily required documents on January 9, 2024. Pursuant to Government Code section 11507, any new charges were deemed controverted.
- 8. Third Amended Accusation Number 7116 was filed before the board and properly served on respondents with all statutorily required documents on January 10, 2024. The Third Amended Accusation is currently pending against respondents. A copy of Third Amended Accusation Number 7116 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

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ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 9. Respondents have carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understand the charges and allegations in Third Amended Accusation Number 7116. Respondents also have carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understand the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 10. Respondents are fully aware of their legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Third Amended Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against them; the right to present evidence and to testify on their 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.
- 11. Respondents voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waive and give up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 12. Respondents admit the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Third Amended Accusation Number 7116, agree that cause exists for discipline, and hereby surrender Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 56846 and Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410 for the board's formal acceptance.
- 13. Respondents understand that by signing this stipulation they enable the board to issue an order accepting the surrender of Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 56846 and Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410 without further process.

CONTINGENCY

14. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the board. Respondents understand and agree 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 respondents or respondents' counsel. By signing the stipulation, respondents understand and agree that they may not withdraw their 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.

- 15. 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.
- 16. 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.
- 17. 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 Number PHY 56846, issued to respondent Jesus Loves You Pharmacy, Inc., dba Better Life Pharmacy (New Life Pharmacy-Farmacia), John A. Gendy, CEO; and Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410, issued to respondent John A. Gendy, are surrendered and accepted by the board.

1. The surrender of respondent Better Life Pharmacy's Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 56846 and respondent Gendy's Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410, and the acceptance of the surrendered permit and license by the board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against respondents. Respondents understand and agree that for purposes of Business and Professions Code section 4307, this surrender shall be construed the same as a revocation. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of respondents' license histories with the board.

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- 2. Respondent Better Life Pharmacy shall cease to have any rights and privileges as a pharmacy in California as of the effective date of the board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent Gendy shall lose all rights and privileges as a pharmacist in California as of the effective date of the board's Decision and Order.
- 4. Respondents shall cause to be delivered to the board any pocket licenses and, if any were issued, any wall certificates on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 5. If either respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the board shall treat it as a new application for licensure. Respondents 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 Third Amended Accusation Number 7116 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by respondents when the board determines whether to grant or deny the application(s) or petition(s).
- 6. Respondents shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$72,222.25 prior to applying for a new or reinstated license. No such application shall be considered until full payment is made.
- 7. If respondents 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 Third Amended Accusation Number 7116 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by respondents for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.
- 8. Respondents may not apply, reapply, or petition for any licensure, permit, or registration from the board for three (3) years from the effective date of the Decision and Order.

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1	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>		
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully		
3	discussed it with the attorney for Jesus Loves You Pharmacy, Inc., dba Better Life Pharmacy. I		
4	understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on the corporation's Pharmacy Permit		
5	Number PHY 56846. Jesus Loves You Pharmacy, Inc., dba Better Life Pharmacy enters into this		
6	Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agrees		
7	be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.		
8			
9	DATED:		
10 11	JOHN A. GENDY, CEO FOR JESUS LOVES YOU PHARMACY, INC., DBA BETTER LIFE PHARMACY		
12	Respondent		
13			
14	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully		
15	discussed it with my attorney. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my		
16	Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of		
17	License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the		
18	Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.		
19	DATED:		
20	JOHN A. GENDY		
21	Respondent		
22	I have read and fully discussed with my clients the terms and conditions and other matters		
23	contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and content.		
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25	DATED:		
26	HERBERT L. WEINBERG FENTON LAW GROUP, LLP		
27	Attorney for Respondents		
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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with the attorney for Jesus Loves You Pharmacy, Inc., dba Better Life Pharmacy. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on the corporation's Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 56846. Jesus Loves You Pharmacy, Inc., dba Better Life Pharmacy enters into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agrees to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.

DATED:

JOHN A. GENDY, CEO FOR JESUS LOVES YOU PHARMACY, INC., DBA BETTER LIFE PHARMACY

Respondent

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 Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410. 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:

JOHN A. GHAR

I have read and fully discussed with my clients the terms and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: [[18] 2024

HERBERT II. WEINBERG FENTON LAW GROUP, LLP Attorney for Respondents

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1	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>
2	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted
3	for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
4	DATED: Respectfully submitted,
5	ROB BONTA
6 7	Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK Supervising Deputy Attorney General
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9	Matthew A. King
10	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant
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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: ____ January 10, 2024 Respectfully submitted, ROB BONTA Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK Supervising Deputy Attorney General MATTHEW X. KING Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant LA2021601157 66492985_3.docx

Exhibit A

Third Amended Accusation No. 7116

1	ROB BONTA	
2	Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General MATTHEW A. KING	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 265691	
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013	
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6303 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126	
7	Attorneys for Complainant	
8	BEFOR	E THE
9	BOARD OF F DEPARTMENT OF C	
10	STATE OF C	
11		
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 7116
13	JESUS LOVES YOU PHARMACY, INC.,	
14	DBA BETTER LIFE PHARMACY (NEW LIFE PHARMACY – FARMACIA), JOHN	THIRD AMENDED ACCUSATION
15	A. GENDY, CEO 9420 Slauson Ave.	
16	Pico Rivera, CA 90660	
17	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 56846,	
18	and	
19		
20	JOHN A. GENDY 838 N. Azusa Ave. #5	
21	West Covina, CA 91791	
22	Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH	
23	74410	
24	Respondents.	
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	(JESUS LOVES YOU PHARMACY, INC., DBA BETTE	R LIFE PHARMACY, JOHN A. GENDY and JOHN A. GENDY) THIRD AMENDED ACCUSATION

GENDY) THIRD AMENDED ACCUSATION

PARTIES

- 1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) brings this Third Amended Accusation¹ solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs.
- 2. On or about December 13, 2018, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 56846 to Jesus Loves You Pharmacy, Inc., dba Better Life Pharmacy (New Life Pharmacy Farmacia), John A. Gendy, CEO) (Respondent Better Life). The Pharmacy Permit was cancelled on October 14, 2021 due to a discontinuance of business effective September 28, 2020.
- 3. On or about January 29, 2016, the Board of Pharmacy issued Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410 to John A. Gendy (Respondent Gendy). The Registered Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 28, 2025, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 4. This Third 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, or 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, subdivision (a), of the Code provides that every license issued by the Board may be suspended or revoked.
 - 7. Section 4300.1 of the Code states:

The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a

¹ Any new charges brought in the Second Amended Accusation that are not maintained herein are withdrawn without prejudice.

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FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

First Consumer Complaint Investigation

- 13. On or about May 12, 2020, the Board received an online consumer complaint from T.E. The complaint stated the following:
 - Respondent Better Life Pharmacy submitted fraudulent prescriptions for consumer complainant, T.E.'s husband (S.E.), and billed medication not ordered from the provider;
 - Dr. S. wrote a prescription for Duexis and Respondent Better Life changed it to Vimovo without contacting the provider for the change or consulting with the patient;
 - Respondent Better Life sent claims to Humana for Pennsaid 2% pump and diclofenac 3% gel without the order from the prescriber;
 - Respondent Better Life mailed one prescription to the patient without any communication to the patient and after the consumer complainant directed Respondent Better Life not to fill the prescription;
 - Respondent Better Life billed the patient \$715.08 for the medication and the medication was sent through USPS whereby the patient could not refuse delivery of the medication;
- 14. On or about July 1, 2020, a Board Investigator (Investigator) spoke with consumer complainant T.E. who informed the Investigator that her husband, S.E., received Vimovo from Respondent Better Life, which T.E. and S.E. returned because: 1) S.E. and T.E. had not requested the medication, and 2) It was very expensive.
- 15. The Investigator spoke with Respondent Gendy who stated there were three prescriptions on file for patient S.E.; however, Respondent Gendy claimed not to have billed them because they were rejected by insurance. The Investigator also collected the following documents during the inspection for patient S.E. from Respondent Gendy:
 - Patient Drug Profile for patient S.E., dated August 20, 2020;
 - The original faxed prescription for patient S.E., dated May 7, 2020;
 - The original prescription that did not have any back-tags or labels attached to the document and had a header of 'Star Ortho' and a fax number.

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- 16. During the inspection, Respondent Gendy told the Investigator that none of the prescriptions on patient S.E.'s profile were delivered to the patient because insurance did not pay.
- 17. The Investigator also asked Respondent Gendy why there were so many transactions for billing and reversing the claims on patient S.E.'s profile, and requested to see hard copies for the prescriptions for diclofenac, naproxen-esomeprazole and Pennsaid billed in June 2020. Respondent Gendy admitted that he did not have hard copies of deleted prescriptions and gave the excuse that he was teaching his technicians to type, that he never personally billed prescriptions for patient S.E., and that his technicians billed the prescriptions. Respondent Gendy claimed no prescriptions were billed nor paid by insurance to him.
- 18. On or about September 25, 2020, consumer complainant T.E. emailed the Investigator the following attachments:
 - Rx delivery receipt for RX#605509 dated May 8, 2020;
 - USPS proof of delivery, dated May 18, 2020;
 - Photo of prescription bottle RX#605509;
 - Photo of envelope from Respondent Better Life;
 - Humana claims screenshot page dated June 8, 2020.
- 19. On or about October 19, 2020, Respondent Gendy emailed the Investigator the dispensing data covering the time period December 13, 2018, through September 28, 2020.
- 20. On or about October 26, 2020, the Investigator attempted to speak with the office contact at Dr. S.'s office about S.E.'s May 7, 2020 prescription order form. The Investigator previously noticed the May 7, 2020, faxed prescription had a blue ink hand written notes documenting changes to the original typed prescription, which appeared to read "per Jessy 5/8/20" and wished to inquire about those characteristics.
- 21. On or about October 28, 2020, the Investigator spoke with a medical assistant at Dr. S.'s office. The individual informed the Investigator that Dr. S.'s office did not use Respondent Better Life anymore because of an accumulation of consumer complaints. The medical assistant further informed the Investigator T.E. complained about Respondent Better Life. Finally, the

Investigator inquired as to whether anyone by the name of 'Jessy' worked at the office, and the medical assistant confirmed no person with that name had ever worked there.

- 22. On or about November 4, 2020, Dr. S.'s medical assistant emailed the Investigator the following information/statements:
 - Dr. S.'s office did not authorize any change from Duexis to Vimovo generic and changes from Pennsaid 2% to diclofenac gel 3%;
 - Dr. S.'s office did not have any employees by the name 'Jessy' working on or around May 8, 2020;
 - There were no marketing promotions with Respondent Better Life;
 - Dr. S.'s office used pharmacy called Horizon Care and Respondent Better Life was chosen by them to prescribe medications to their Medicare patients;
 - Dr. S.'s office stopped using Respondent Better Life because consumer complainants had said that Respondent Better Life failed to deliver medications prescribed by Dr. S. until months later and billed insurance for medications not prescribed by Dr. S to get DuexisNimovo/Pennsaid approved;
 - Patients also complained that Respondent Better Life billed their insurance for refills without the patients' consent;
- 23. Respondent Better Life sent prescription RX#605509 dated May 8, 2020, for naproxen-esomeprazole DR 500 mg/20 mg to patient S.E. as confirmed by the delivery receipt and a photograph submitted by T.E to the investigator. The USPS delivery confirmation showed that S.E. returned the bottle of naproxen-esomeprazole DR 500 mg/20 mg to Respondent Better Life on or about May 16, 2020. However, Respondent Gendy falsely denied sending any medications to S.E.
- 24. Prescription RX#605510 dated May 8, 2020, for diclofenac sodium 3% gel was billed to Humana according to the Humana records submitted by S.E. During the inspection, the Investigator reviewed the DigitalRX computer system which revealed the billing for Rx#605510 was reversed by Respondent Better Life.

Second Consumer Complaint Investigation

- 25. On or about June 22, 2020, the Board received an online complaint from Pharmacist J.G. who owned Medella Pharmacy and filed a complaint against Respondent Gendy for fraud. The complaint claimed the following:
 - Respondent Gendy called J.G.'s software company on or about June 19, 2020, and fraudulently claimed his name was 'Joe' (Pharmacist J.G.'s nickname) and that he was from Medella Pharmacy;
 - Respondent Gendy asked a software representative to reverse a high dollar amount claim from Pharmacist J.G.'s system.
 - According to J.G., Respondent Gendy's motivation was to bill the claim in his system;
 - Pharmacist J.G. obtained the recording from the software company and filed the police report with Downey Police Department. The investigation is pending with the Downey Police Department
- 26. On or about July 27, 2020, J.G. told the Investigator the prescription in question #801933 was for patient J.N. for metformin ER 1000 mg, one hundred and eighty tablets for a ninety-day supply. J.G. also gave the audio file with the recording made by the software company to the Investigator.
- 27. On or about August 20, 2020, the Investigator conducted an inspection at Respondent Better Life. The Investigator asked Respondent Gendy about patient J.N. and Respondent Gendy claimed he did not remember the patient. Respondent Gendy, however, provided the investigator access to J.N.'s profile in the pharmacy software DigitalRX, of which she took several photos of J.N. medication profile.
 - 28. The Investigator also collected the following documents during her investigation:
 - RX#602722 metformin ER 1000 mg prescription label dated January 24, 2020;
 - A copy of the original electronic prescription metformin ER 1000 mg for patient J.N, dated January 24, 2020; and
 - Patient drug profile document for J.N., dated August 20, 2020.

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- 29. Additionally, on or about August 20, 2020, a written notice was issued to Respondent Gendy regarding controlled substance inventory requirements. Specifically, Respondent Gendy admitted he did not count controlled substances schedule II, III, IV, V at the opening of the pharmacy nor since the start of his business.
- 30. Pharmacist J.G. told the Investigator that prescriber, Dr. C., started sending patients to Medella Pharmacy. J.G requested to transfer prescriptions from Respondent Better Life and Respondent Gendy to his pharmacy for the new patients on several occasions. Respondent Gendy, however, failed to provide transfer prescriptions, necessitating J.G. to request new prescription orders for his new patients from the different prescribers directly. J.G. also processed several prescriptions for his new patients where insurance payment rejection messages on his software showed Respondent Better Life had already billed for medications.
- 31. J.G. obtained a new prescription for metformin ER 1000 mg from Dr. C for his new patient J.N. and billed insurance on or about June 17, 2020. The following day, he checked J.N.'s profile and saw it was reversed in DigitalRX pharmacy system; however, neither J.G. nor his staff had initiated the reversal. J.G. called DigitalRX to investigate, obtained a voice recording, and recognized Respondent Gendy's voice. J.G. subsequently filed a police report with Downey Police Department and a complaint with the Board. The police report remains pending with the Downey Police Department. Additionally, DigitalRX software staff said they identified Respondent Gendy's voice.
- 32. J.G. also explained that he noticed a claim for patient J.N. RX#801933 for metformin ER 1000 mg had been reversed by "RXUSER." J.G. explained that DigitalRX software used ""RXUSER" signature if DigitalRX reversed prescriptions upon request by a pharmacy over the phone. J.G. became suspicious and called DigitalRX software to investigate, upon which he obtained a voice recording from an individual pretending to be him and requesting the reversal. J.G. recognized voice as Respondent Gendy. It was Respondent Gendy who phoned DigitalRX under false pretenses claiming to be J.G. in order to reverse a claim for patient J.N.
- 33. On or about October 15, 2020 the Investigator spoke with J.N's niece who stated the following:

- Her uncle was a patient of Medella pharmacy in Downey;
- Respondent Better Life in Pico Rivera was billing her uncle's insurance company for medication he did not receive;
- Because her uncle's hospital said they did not have a contract with Respondent Better Life, she accompanied her uncle to Medella Pharmacy;
- Medella Pharmacy informed her uncle they tried to bill the insurance for metformin, but Respondent Better Life had already billed it;
- J.N.'s niece went with her uncle to Respondent Better Life to complain.
- 34. J.N.'s niece further stated that Respondent Better Life should not be billing insurance currently for any medications because it was not providing any medications to J.N.
- 35. On or about October 19, 2020, Respondent Gendy provided the Investigator with Better Life dispensing data for December 13, 2018 through September 28, 2020.
- 36. The Investigator spent considerable time speaking with Respondent Gendy during the subject investigation. The Investigator observed Respondent Gendy had an accent speaking English, and noticed his voice quality and the manner of speaking. The Investigator also spoke several times with J.G. of Medella Pharmacy and observed he was a native English speaker with no accent. Respondent Gendy's and J.G.'s manner of speaking and tonal voice quality were also very different. The audio file from DigitalRX software revealed Respondent Gendy called DigitalRX pretending to be 'Joe.'
- 37. DigitalRX software photos of J.N.'s patient profile showed prescription number RX#605151 for metformin ER 1000 mg dated August 14, 2020, was processed on but not paid by the insurance, RX#605152 for metformin ER 1000 mg dated April 23, 2020, was on file and not paid by the insurance.
- 38. Patient J.N.'s drug profile collected at the inspection on August 20, 2020, revealed metformin ER 1000 mg RX#602722 was dispensed on January 24, 2020, and delivered on February 7, 2020, according to the delivery receipt submitted by Respondent Gendy on August 31, 2020, and was signed for by 'Jasmin'. The Investigator analyzed the dispensing data

Table 1

Prescription number	Medication	Patient	Prescriber	Total dollar amount paid by payer (including all refills)
RX 601335	Restasis 0.05% eye emulsion	MG	Dr. C.	2,041.22
RX 601594	Xifaxan 550mg	GC	Dr. C.	2,300.82
RX601908	Xifaxan 550mg	GC	Dr. C.	2,320.43
RX 601946	Myrbetriq ER 25mg	SS	Dr. C.	2,949.46
RX601924	Januvia 100mg	JC	Dr. C.	1,110.96
RX603037	Januvia 100mg	JC	Dr. C.	1,815.24
RX605039	Januvia 100mg	JC	Dr. C.	1,769.28
RX600929	Vascepa lg	GC	Dr. C.	865.25
RX 600521	Januvia 100mg	RC	Dr. C.	5,304.8
RX603102	Ozempic 0.25mg- 0.5mg	RC	Dr. C.	3,956.35
RX 600532	Toujeo Solostar 300u/ml	RC	Dr. C.	7,592.07
RX 600843	Vascepa lg	RC	Dr. C.	1,804.41
RX601439	Jardiance 20mg	VH	Dr. C.	4,271.41
			TOTAL:	38.101.70

- 42. The Investigator further analyzed dispensing data submitted by Respondent Gendy on or about October 19, 2020 for the time period from December 13, 2018, through September 28, 2020. The Investigator searched Respondent Gendy's name in this dispensing data and did not find any prescriptions dispensed under that name for that period.
- 43. The Investigator further analyzed the claims data submitted by Payer BSC on or about October 19, 2020. The Investigator searched Respondent Gendy's name in Payer BSC's claims data as well. The search data revealed sixty-eight claims submitted and paid by Payer BSC for the total of \$98,624.99 for Respondent Gendy. The following Table 2 represented the randomly selected claims paid by the Payer BSC for Respondent Gendy's prescriptions:

Table 2

JG prescription number	Medication		Total dollar amount paid by payer (including all refills)
RX 602968	Truvada 100mg-	Dr. C.	1,736.38
		12	

	150mg		
RX 602973	Xifaxan 550mg	Dr. C.	4,503.70
RX 605368	Naproxen- Esomeprazole DR500mg- 20mg	Dr. C.	3,446.98
RX 605399	Xifaxan 550mg	Dr. C.	9,697.40
RX 605523	Chlorzoxazone 500mg	Dr. C.	3,191.36
RX 605755	Fluocinonide 0.1%cream	Dr. C.	13,736.82
RX 605579	Creon DR 36,000U	Dr. C.	4644.52
		TOTAL:	40,957.16

- 44. On or about December 18, 2020, the Investigator contacted Dr. C.'s office to verify the documents received from Blue Shield of California. The same day, the Investigator also contacted Dr. M's office to verify the documents received from Blue Shield of California.
- 45. On or about December 22, 2020, the Investigator received the following response from Dr. M.:
 - Respondent Gendy was seen in Dr. M's office on or about November 15, 2019, for a qualified medical evaluation; and
 - Dr. M did not prescribe any medications or make treatment recommendations.
- 46. On or about December 23, 2020, the Investigator received the following statement from Dr. C. in connection with the document verification:
 - Dr. C. had not signed any of the PA's;
 - Dr. C. saw Respondent Gendy as a patient once for a sore throat and a physical examination on or about February 20, 2020;
 - At that time his medication list was only timolol ophthalmic solution.
 - A throat culture and sensitivity test was done, which was normal, and no other medications were ordered;
 - Respondent Gendy's medication list showed Creon, Ajovy, Zegen, Xifaxan, Biktarvy, Truvada and Otezla which were not prescribed by Dr. C.;

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- Dr. C. had no knowledge of any condition that would warrant the use of any of these medications for Respondent Gendy;
- Most recently, Respondent Gendy had a PA for the drug Otezla which Dr. C did not order.
- Dr. C believed Respondent Gendy was working with one of her prior employees but, in any case, Dr. C. had not prescribed any of subject the medications;
- Dr. C. spoke to Respondent Gendy in February 2020 and requested he cease prescribing medication in her name that patients were not taking. Dr. C. informed Respondent Gendy the practice was illegal, that it must stop, and she would cease doing business with him if he continued. Despite this request, Respondent Gendy continued the practice, causing Dr. C. to stop sending Respondent Gendy any prescriptions or patients;
- Dr. C stated she did not prescribe any of these medications and did not know how they appeared in the computer;
- 47. Prescription documents and the delivery confirmations submitted to the Board by Respondent Gendy on December 15, 2020, listed in the above Table 1 for patients MG, GC, SS, JC, RC, VH were prescribed by Dr. C. and represented verbally verified chart orders and electronic prescriptions signed by Dr. C. The aforementioned prescription orders did not appear uncertain² nor did they represent uncommon pharmacy practice.
- 48. Prescription documents submitted to the Board by Respondent Gendy on or about December 18, 2020, were prescriptions for his own medications with their delivery confirmations and represented electronic prescriptions and verbally authorized refill orders. Dr. C., however, did not prescribe Respondent Gendy any of these medications because there was no medical indication for them. The prescriptions submitted to the Board by Respondent Gendy on December 18, 2020, were uncertain because they were not authorized by Dr. C. Respondent Gendy acted unprofessionally by fraudulently obtaining the following prescriptions under Dr. C.'s name for himself and billing Payer BSC for the total sum of at least \$40, 957.16:

² Pursuant to C.C.R., Title 16, Section 1761, no pharmacist shall compound or dispense any prescription which contains any significant error, omission, irregularity, uncertainty, ambiguity or alteration. Upon receipt of any such prescription, the pharmacist shall contact the prescriber to obtain the information needed to validate the prescription.

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RX 602968	Truvada 100mg-150mg
RX 602973	Xifaxan 550mg
RX 605368	Naproxen-
	Esomeprazole
	DR500mg-20mg
RX 605399	Xifaxan 550mg
RX 605523	Chlorzoxazone 500mg
RX 605755	Fluocinonide
	0.1%cream
RX 605579	Creon DR 36,000U

- 49. Prior authorization documents submitted to Payer BCS for authorization of Respondent Gendy's personal medications were not submitted by Dr. M.'s office either. Respondent Gendy submitted PA documents on behalf of Dr. M's and Dr. C's offices for the medications which were not prescribed. The analysis of the prior authorization documents submitted by Payer BSC to the Board on or about October 19, 2020, to support the complaint further revealed the following:
 - The handwriting and the signatures of Dr. C. and Dr. M. did not match their handwriting and signatures in their statements dated December 22, 2020.
 - According to Dr. M.'s statement dated December 22, 2020, he did not prescribe any medications to Respondent Gendy. Therefore, there should not have been a PA document signed on February 6, 2020, and submitted to Payer BSC for Respondent Gendy's Restasis and Inveltys. PA forms submitted to Payer BSC to obtain BSC payments for Restasis and Inveltys were falsely signed and submitted by Respondent Gendy to Payer BSC and represented the non-existent prescriptions.
 - According to Dr. C.'s statement dated December 22, 2020, she did not prescribe Otezla to Respondent Gendy, thus there should not have been a prior authorization document submission to Payer BSC to obtain a payment authorization.
 - Prior authorization forms received by Payer BSC to obtain insurance payments were falsely signed and submitted by Respondent Gendy and represented a non-existent prescription Restasis and Inveltys by Dr. M. and Otezla by Dr. Carnegie.

• The handwriting on all prior authorization forms submitted to Payer BSC looked very similar to Respondent Gendy's handwriting on the Discontinuance of Business form submitted and signed by Respondent Gendy on or about September 25, 2020. Respondent Better Life and Respondent Gendy received at least \$40,957.16 from Payer BSC for the medications not warranted for his medical conditions according to the statement by Dr. C. dated December 22, 2020.

Fourth Consumer Complaint Investigation

- 50. On or about June 27, 2021, the Board received an online complaint from consumer complainant J.H. regarding possible fraudulent activity by Respondent Better Life and Respondent Gendy.
 - 51. Specifically, the complaint alleged:
 - Pharmacy was closed;
 - The man was a scammer and delivered Pennsaid to J.H.'s house and told her the copay was only \$20;
 - Then he billed Humana for the delivery and another delivery later in July 2020, which
 J.H. never received; and
 - Prescription was RX 606596 by Dr. W.
- 52. The Investigator undertook an investigation in response to the complaint. As part of the investigation and on July 19, 2021, the Investigator spoke with consumer complainant J.H. who informed the Investigator that Respondents charged her Humana insurance for Pennsaid medication and never delivered the refills. J.H. received a statement form from Humana that showed Respondents billed Humana two shipments of this medication of which J.H. only received one.
- 53. As part of the investigation, the Investigator analyzed prescription document RX 606596 submitted by Respondent Gendy on July 28, 2021. The investigator's analysis revealed that said prescription was for Pennsaid 2% by Dr. W and with no authorization for refills. On

July 2, 2020 and again on July 29, 200, Respondent dispensed Pennsaid 2% to J.H. As noted above by J.H., she did not receive a refill on Pennsaid 2% but her insurance was billed for it.

- 54. The Investigator analyzed Humana's dispensing data and searched for J.H. prescriptions, which revealed the following three (3) prescriptions for Creon DR, RX 606606, RX 606605, and RX 607155. On July 22, 2021, the Investigator spoke with J.H. who stated her doctor never discussed nor prescribed her Creon DR. The Investigator analyzed Respondent Better Life dispensing data for the time period December 13, 2018 to September 28, 2020 submitted by Respondent Gendy on October 19, 2020. Said dispensing data did not reveal J.H. prescriptions for Creon DR. The Investigator's analysis also revealed prescription RX 606596, with total paid by plan \$20,614.20 for the time period July 2, 2020 to July 29, 2020.
- 55. As part of the investigation, the Investigator analyzed Respondent Better Life dispensing data for the time period December 13, 2018 to September 28, 2020 submitted by Respondent Gendy on October 19, 2020. Said dispensing data did not reveal J.H. prescriptions for Creon DR. Respondent Gendy submitted false prescriptions for Creon DR to Humana and was paid \$20,614.20 for said prescriptions that were never provided to J.H.
- 56. On September 25, 2020, Respondents signed a Discontinuation of Business form. Respondents kept pharmacy records in the manager's office of Serve Rite Liquor & Market, located in Pico Rivera, CA, after Respondent Better Life was closed. Serve Rite Liquor & Market is not a Board-licensed facility and it was Respondent Gendy's responsibility to ensure security of the pharmacy records. On March 16, 2021, the pharmacy records were seized by the Department of Insurance pursuant to the execution of a warrant at Serve Rite Liquor & Market.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Erroneous or Uncertain Prescriptions)

- 57. Respondent Better Life is subject to disciplinary action under, C.C.R. Title 16, Section 1761 subdivision (a), in that Respondent Better Life:
- a) On or about May 8, 2020, altered the facsimile prescription for patient S.E. from Duexis to naproxen-esomeprazole DR 500 mg/20 mg without Dr. S's authorization and dispensed naproxen-esomeprazole DR 500 mg/20 mg to patient S.E. without patient's request, as is more

fully set forth in paragraphs 13 - 24, above, which are incorporated by reference.

- b) Dispensed to Respondent Gendy uncertain prescriptions not authorized by Dr. C. and received payments from Payer BSC totaling at least \$40,957.16, as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 39 49, above, which are incorporated by reference.
- c) Dispensed to Respondent Gendy uncertain prescriptions not authorized by Dr. M. and received payments from Payer BSC, as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 45 and 49, which are incorporated by reference.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

- 58. Respondent Better Life is subject to disciplinary action under, Section 4301 subdivision (o), of the Code in that Respondent Better Life:
- a) Did not have initial inventory completed since the beginning of business operations on or about December 13, 2018, in violation of Pharmacy Law Code of Federal Regulations 1304.11 section (b), as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 25 38, above, which are incorporated by reference.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

- 59. Respondent Gendy is subject to disciplinary action under, Section 4301 subdivision (f), of the Code in that:
- a) While being Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Better Life, Respondent Gendy called DigitalRX software company pretending to be 'Joe' from Medella Pharmacy to reverse claim for medication metformin ER RX#801933 for patient J.N. as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 25 38, above, which are incorporated by reference;
- b) Respondent Gendy while being pharmacist in charge of Respondent Better Life, fraudulently obtained uncertain prescriptions from Dr. C. and dispensed the prescriptions to himself and received payments from Payer BSC totaling at least \$40, 957.16 as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 39 49, above, which are incorporated by reference.

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c) Respondent Gendy, while being pharmacist in charge of Respondent Better Life, fraudulently obtained uncertain prescriptions from Dr. M. and dispensed the prescriptions to himself and received payments from Payer BSC, as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 45 and 49, which are incorporated by reference.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

- 60. Respondent Gendy is subject to disciplinary action under, Section 4301 subdivision (o), of the Code in that Respondent Gendy:
- a) While being Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Better Life, Respondent Gendy did not complete initial inventory for controlled substances schedule II IV since the beginning of business operations on or about December 13, 2018, in violation of Pharmacy Law Code of Federal Regulations 1304.11 section (b) as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 24 38, above, which are incorporated by reference.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Erroneous or Uncertain Prescriptions)

- 61. Respondent Gendy is subject to disciplinary action under C.C.R. Title 16, Section 1761 subdivision (a), in that:
- a) While being Pharmacist-in-Charge of Better Life Pharmacy, Respondent Gendy was dishonest during the inspection on or about August 20, 2020, regarding dispensing of the prescription for patient S.E. RX 605509 for naproxen-esomeprazole 500 mg/20 mg as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 13 24, above, which are incorporated by reference;
- b) Respondent Gendy while being pharmacist in charge of Respondent Better Life, fraudulently obtained uncertain prescriptions from Dr. C. and dispensed the prescriptions to himself and received payments from Payer BSC totaling at least \$40, 957.16 as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 39 49, above, which are incorporated by reference.
- c) Respondent Gendy, while being pharmacist in charge of Respondent Better Life, fraudulently obtained uncertain prescriptions from Dr. M. and dispensed the prescriptions to himself and received payments from Payer BSC, as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 45 and 19

b) While being Pharmacist-in-Charge of Respondent Better Life, Respondent Gendy from July 2, 2020 to July 29, 2020, billed Humana insurance for non-existent Creon DR prescriptions RX 606606, RX 606605, RX 607155 and uncertain prescription refill for RX 606596 Pennsaid 2%. Respondent Gendy received \$20,614.20 in payment from Humana for the time period of July 2, 2020 to July 29, 2020 as is more fully set forth in paragraphs 50 - 56, above, which are incorporated by reference.

OWNERSHIP PROHIBITION

- 65. As set forth above, section 4307, subdivision (a), provides, in pertinent part, that any person whose license has been revoked or is under suspension shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate or partner of a licensee.
- 66. Pursuant to section 4307, if Respondent Gendy had knowledge of, or knowingly participated in, any conduct for which Pharmacy Permit PHY 56846 was revoked, suspended or placed on probation, while acting as administrator, owner, officer, director, or any other person with management or control of Better Life Pharmacy, he shall be prohibited from serving as administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 56846 is placed on probation, or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 56846 is revoked.
- 67. If Respondent Gendy had knowledge of, or knowingly participated in, any conduct for which Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410 was revoked, suspended or placed on probation, while acting as administrator, owner, officer, director, or any other person with management or control of Better Life Pharmacy, he shall be prohibited from serving as administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410 is placed on probation, or until Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410 is reinstated if Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 74410 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: