

responsibility. *See supra* II.C; RD, at 21 (citing *Arvinder Singh, M.D.*, 81 FR 8247, 8249–51 (2016)); *Stein*, 84 FR 46973. Additionally, Respondent plead *nolo contendere* instead of guilty to the charge of offering unlawful Medi-Cal remuneration. GX 3. “In general, however, a plea of *nolo contendere* is inconsistent with the acceptance of responsibility.” RD, at 21 (citing *United States v. Gordon*, 979 F. Supp. 337, 342 (E.D. Pa. 1997) (internal citations omitted)). Finding that a respondent has failed to accept responsibility is warranted where, as here, the respondent pled *nolo contendere* and minimized his role in the crime. *See Jeffery M. Freeseemann, M.D.*, 76 FR 60873, 60888 (2011); *see also* RD, at 22.

Respondent must convince the Administrator that his acceptance of responsibility and remorse are sufficiently credible to demonstrate that the misconduct will not recur. Respondent, in his opening statement, argued that his testimony would show “his genuine remorse” Tr. 14. But the record indicates that Respondent was not remorseful for what he did; instead that he regretted the consequences that flowed from his conviction.¹⁴ *Id.* at 31, 39, 68. This lack of remorse goes hand-in-hand with Respondent’s failure to accept responsibility and further supports the revocation of his registration.

In sanction determinations, the Agency has historically considered its interest in deterring similar acts, both with respect to the respondent in a particular case and the community of registrants. *See Joseph Gaudio, M.D.*, 74 FR 10083, 10095 (2009); *Singh*, 81 FR at 8248. In this case, the Respondent knew at the time that he committed the crime that his actions were illegal—he even told Mr. Gonzales that the actions were illegal and advised him not to tell anyone. Deterring such deceit and knowing criminal behavior both in Respondent and the general registrant community is relevant to ensuring compliance with the CSA. Although I would not characterize Respondent’s

underlying crime as particularly egregious, Respondent has not convinced me that he will not repeat such deceitful behavior in using his CSA registration.

Respondent has argued, among other things, that he can be entrusted with a registration because he has seen over 15,000 patients in twenty years and has never had any issues with prescribing, he has never had a malpractice complaint, he is very mindful of the opioid crisis, and he has satisfied the terms of his probation. Tr. 13–14, 37, 74. Even assuming, *arguendo*, all of this to be true, Respondent needed to present evidence of a credible and persuasive acceptance of responsibility. Respondent has not.

Based on Respondent’s failure to accept responsibility for his criminal misconduct and lack of demonstrated remorse, I cannot find that Respondent can be entrusted with a DEA registration; and therefore, I find that revocation is the appropriate sanction

I will therefore order that Respondent’s registration be revoked as contained in the Order below.

Order

Pursuant to 28 CFR 0.100(b) and the authority vested in me by 21 U.S.C. 824(a), I hereby revoke DEA Certificate of Registration No. BA6641472 issued to Ibrahim Al-Qawaqneh, D.D.S. This Order is effective March 22, 2021.

D. Christopher Evans,
Acting Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

[Docket No. DEA–793]

**Importer of Controlled Substances
Application: VHG Labs DBA LGC
Standards**

AGENCY: Drug Enforcement Administration, Justice.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: VHG Labs DBA LGC Standards has applied to be registered as an importer of basic class(es) of controlled substance(s). Refer to Supplemental Information listed below for further drug information.

DATES: Registered bulk manufacturers of the affected basic class(es), and applicants therefore, may file written comments on or objections to the issuance of the proposed registration on or before March 22, 2021. Such persons may also file a written request for a hearing on the application on or before March 22, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: Drug Enforcement Administration, Attention: DEA Federal Register Representative/DPW, 8701 Morrisette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152. All requests for a hearing must be sent to: Drug Enforcement Administration, Attn: Administrator, 8701 Morrisette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152. All requests for a hearing should also be sent to: (1) Drug Enforcement Administration, Attn: Hearing Clerk/OALJ, 8701 Morrisette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152; and (2) Drug Enforcement Administration, Attn: DEA Federal Register Representative/DPW, 8701 Morrisette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 21 CFR 1301.34(a), this is notice that on February 2, 2021, VHG Labs DBA LGC Standards, 3 Perimeter Road, Manchester, New Hampshire 03103, applied to be registered as an importer of the following basic class(es) of controlled substance(s):

Controlled substance	Drug code	Schedule
Cathinone	1235	I
Methcathinone	1237	I
Naphyrone	1258	I
N-Ethylamphetamine	1475	I
JWH-250 (1-Pentyl-3-(2-methoxyphenylacetyl) indole)	6250	I
SR-18 (Also known as RCS–8) (1-Cyclohexylethyl-3-(2-methoxyphenylacetyl) indole)	7008	I
APINACA and AKB48 N-(1-Adamantyl)-1-pentyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide	7048	I
JWH-081 (1-Pentyl-3-(1-(4-methoxynaphthoyl) indole)	7081	I
SR-19 (Also known as RCS-4) (1-Pentyl-3-[(4-methoxy)-benzoyl] indole	7104	I

¹⁴For example, Respondent testified “I really suffered going through these things—something I didn’t do . . . [I] lost most—most of my patients,

lost a lot of PPO insurances. I have to pay a lot of employees, and so many things for something that happened—someone faking like, you know,

accusing you of doing something, but there’s no 100 percent proof.” Tr. 68.

Controlled substance	Drug code	Schedule
JWH-018 (also known as AM678) (1-Pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole)	7118	I
JWH-122 (1-Pentyl-3-(4-methyl-1-naphthoyl) indole)	7122	I
UR-144 (1-Pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone	7144	I
JWH-203 (1-Pentyl-3-(2-chlorophenylacetyl) indole)	7203	I
Ibogaine	7260	I
Lysergic acid diethylamide	7315	I
Marihuana Extract	7350	I
Marihuana	7360	I
Tetrahydrocannabinols	7370	I
Mescaline	7381	I
JWH-398 (1-Pentyl-3-(4-chloro-1-naphthoyl) indole)	7398	I
3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine	7405	I
5-Methoxy-N-N-dimethyltryptamine	7431	I
Psilocyn	7438	I
4-Methyl-alpha-pyrrolidinopropiophenone (4-MePPP)	7498	I
MDPV (3,4-Methylenedioxypropylvalerone)	7535	I
Methylone (3,4-Methylenedioxy-N-methylcathinone)	7540	I
Butylone	7541	I
Pentylone	7542	I
Codeine-N-oxide	9053	I
Desomorphine	9055	I
Dihydromorphine	9145	I
Heroin	9200	I
Morphine-N-oxide	9307	I
Normorphine	9313	I
Tilidine	9750	I
Alpha-methylfentanyl	9814	I
Acetyl Fentanyl (N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-phenylacetamide)	9821	I
Methamphetamine	1105	II
Phenmetrazine	1631	II
Methylphenidate	1724	II
Amobarbital	2125	II
Pentobarbital	2270	II
Secobarbital	2315	II
Glutethimide	2550	II
Phencyclidine	7471	II
4-Anilino-N-phenethyl-4-piperidine (ANPP)	8333	II
Norfentanyl	8366	II
Phenylacetone	8501	II
Codeine	9050	II
Dihydrocodeine	9120	II
Diphenoxylate	9170	II
Ecgonine	9180	II
Ethylmorphine	9190	II
Hydrocodone	9193	II
Levorphanol	9220	II
Meperidine	9230	II
Meperidine intermediate-B	9233	II
Meperidine intermediate-C	9234	II
Methadone intermediate	9254	II
Dextropropoxyphene, bulk (non-dosage forms)	9273	II
Morphine	9300	II
Thebaine	9333	II
14-Hydroxymorphone	9665	II
Noroxymorphone	9668	II
Sufentanil	9740	II
Fentanyl	9801	II

The company plans to import the listed controlled substances for sale to research facilities for drug testing and analysis. In reference to drug codes 7360 (Marihuana) and 7370 (Tetrahydrocannabinols) the company plans to import a synthetic cannabidiol and a synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol. No other activities for these drug codes are authorized for this registration.

Approval of permit applications will occur only when the registrant's

business activity is consistent with what is authorized under 21 U.S.C. 952(a)(2). Authorization will not extend to the import of Food and Drug Administration-approved or non-approved finished dosage forms for commercial sale.

William T. McDermott,
Assistant Administrator.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice: (21-009)]

NASA Astrophysics Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public