

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

BENITO AGUILAR

Plaintiff,

V.

KIM HOLLAND, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE No. 1:13-cv-01356-LJO-DLB (PC)

SECOND SCREENING ORDER,
STRIKING PLAINTIFF'S SECOND
AMENDED COMPLAINT, WITH LEAVE
TO AMEND
[ECF No. 21]

THIRTY-DAY DEADLINE

I. Background

Plaintiff Benito Aguilar (“Plaintiff”) is a prisoner in the custody of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”). Plaintiff is proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in this civil action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff filed his complaint on August 26, 2013. On April 23, 2014, the Court screened the complaint and dismissed it with leave to amend. On May 22, 2014, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint. On October 2, 2014, Plaintiff moved for leave to file a Second Amended Complaint, and the Court granted Plaintiff’s motion on October 15, 2014. On November 17, 2014, Plaintiff filed a Second Amended Complaint, which is presently before the Court for screening.

The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if the prisoner has raised claims that are legally “frivolous or malicious,” that fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or that seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *Id.* § 1915A(b)(1),(2).

A complaint must contain "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the

1 pleader is entitled to relief” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Detailed factual allegations are not
2 required, but “[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere
3 conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (citing *Bell*
4 *Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)). Plaintiff must set forth “sufficient factual
5 matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Id.* (quoting
6 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570). While factual allegations are accepted as true, legal conclusions are
7 not. *Id.*

8 **II. Original and Amended Complaint**

9 A. Original Complaint

10 In his original complaint, Plaintiff brought claims concerning events which occurred while
11 Plaintiff was incarcerated at California Correction Institution (“CCI”) in Tehachapi, California.
12 Plaintiff named Kim Holland, Harold Tate, Khan Lee, T. Bingamon, A. Joaquin, S. Shiesha, and
13 L.D. Zamora as Defendants.

14 Plaintiff stated that on March 12, 2008, two unknown inmates attacked him on Yard-D of
15 Centinela State Prison. The inmates kicked and punched Plaintiff all over his body and knocked
16 him to the ground. Medical staff determined that Plaintiff suffered a dislocated elbow and fracture
17 in his left arm. Since that time, Plaintiff has continued to experience pain for which he has
18 received medical care. Plaintiff was transferred to various institutions and received medical care
19 at those facilities.

20 Plaintiff was transferred back to CCI-Tehachapi in 2011. Plaintiff began to see Dr. Tate
21 for his medical conditions and asthma. Plaintiff saw Dr. Tate numerous times and informed him
22 about his injuries and pain. Plaintiff complained to Dr. Tate that he could not lift his left arm
23 without pain, discomfort, and a popping noise. Dr. Tate said that Plaintiff’s pain will only get
24 worse with age and that he couldn’t do anything to fix it. Plaintiff told Dr. Tate that he wanted to
25 see a physical therapist. Dr. Tate told Plaintiff that physical therapy would not help in that it was
26 already too late for physical therapy.

27 In February 2012, Plaintiff returned to see Dr. Tate. Plaintiff again requested a specialist
28 but Dr. Tate repeated what he had previously told Plaintiff. Plaintiff told Dr. Tate that he would

1 bring a complaint against him for not addressing Plaintiff's medical concerns. Dr. Tate decided to
2 write Plaintiff up on a CDC-128. Plaintiff did not see Dr. Tate anymore for his medical visits.
3 Plaintiff was scheduled to see different doctors because of his complaint against Dr. Tate.

4 Plaintiff alleged that on March 21, 2012, correctional officers Avila and Chacon came to
5 Plaintiff's cell to tell him to get ready for his medical appointment and that they would be back to
6 pick him up. Officers Avila and Chacon never came back to pick up Plaintiff. As a result,
7 Plaintiff had to wait eighteen days to reschedule an appointment. On April 18, 2012, Plaintiff saw
8 a nurse and explained his injuries and medical concerns. The nurse asked Plaintiff what he
9 wanted. She told Plaintiff that the doctors aren't God and that they couldn't fix his health issues.
10 After hearing the nurse's comment, correctional officer Daniels and his partner ended the visit
11 because Plaintiff wasn't getting anywhere with the nurse. Plaintiff was scheduled to see Dr. Allen
12 on April 25, 2012. Plaintiff told Dr. Allen about his injuries and pain. Dr. Allen recommended
13 that Plaintiff have a consultation with an orthopedic specialist.

14 On May 21, 2012, Plaintiff saw Dr. Lei, an orthopedic specialist. Dr. Lei performed tests
15 on Plaintiff and had more X-rays taken at his office. Dr. Lei was upset that the prison did not send
16 Plaintiff's medical file with him. Dr. Lei recommended that Plaintiff receive an MRI and a
17 neurological consultation. Dr. Lei told Plaintiff that he would see him again after the tests.

18 On May 23, 2012, Plaintiff had a follow-up medical appointment with Dr. K. Lee at the
19 prison. Plaintiff told Dr. Lee that an orthopedic surgeon had recommended an MRI for his
20 shoulder and a neurological consultation. Dr. Lee looked annoyed upon hearing this information
21 and ignored Plaintiff's request. Plaintiff told Dr. Lee that he felt dizzy and weak and felt like he
22 was going to pass out from his injuries. Dr. Lee replied that he would order Plaintiff's previous
23 MRIs and look at the results. Dr. Lee performed some tests on Plaintiff's body and said he
24 understood why Plaintiff still suffered pain and discomfort from his injuries. Dr. Lee gave
25 Plaintiff an injection in his shoulder to help with the pain. Dr. Lee said that he would see Plaintiff
26 again in thirty days to check on him. Plaintiff returned to his cell and fell into a deep sleep from
27 the pain injection. One hour later, correctional officers returned to Plaintiff's cell to take him back
28 to see Dr. Lee because Plaintiff had filed a 602 appeal for medical care. Plaintiff told Dr. Lee that

1 the injection put him to sleep and Dr. Lee replied that Plaintiff should see a doctor because that
2 was not normal. Plaintiff again explained his medical conditions to Dr. Lee. Dr. Lee replied that
3 he would see Plaintiff in thirty days.

4 Thirty days later, Plaintiff returned to see Dr. Lee. Plaintiff told Dr. Lee that he continued
5 to sleep after the pain injection. Dr. Lee still did not have Plaintiff's MRIs. Plaintiff asked Dr.
6 Lee to take new MRIs, CT-scans, or X-rays. Dr. Lee replied that they had already spent over
7 \$5,000 on Plaintiff's treatment and MRIs. Plaintiff felt that Dr. Lee did not want to help Plaintiff
8 with his medical problems. Dr. Lee told Plaintiff that his left elbow did not heal properly after the
9 injury and that the injury would continue to bother Plaintiff into the future. Dr. Lee again told
10 Plaintiff that he would see him thirty days later. On July 2, 2010, Plaintiff saw the doctor again
11 and explained his pain and injuries. Again, the doctors failed to give Plaintiff adequate medical
12 treatment for his injuries.

13 Plaintiff informed Dr. Tate, Dr. Allen, and Dr. Lee about his left arm injuries and pain on
14 numerous occasions. He also explained to them that the pain medication was not helping.
15 Plaintiff submitted another 602 medical treatment appeals form. On August 13, 2012, Plaintiff
16 saw a nurse for his health concerns. Plaintiff told the nurse that he had seen an orthopedic surgeon
17 who recommended MRI scans and a neurological consult. The nurse replied that she would look
18 into it and that Plaintiff would see a doctor in a few days.

19 On August 15, 2012, Plaintiff saw Dr. Bingamon for the first time. Plaintiff told Dr.
20 Bingamon about his continued pain from his shoulder injury. Dr. Bingamon assessed Plaintiff's
21 injuries visually and physically. Dr. Bingamon said he could not review Plaintiff's medical
22 history at that time because the computer system was not in service due to systematic problems.
23 He told Plaintiff that he would reschedule a visit to go over Plaintiff's medical history. As of
24 August 18, 2012, Plaintiff still did not have his follow-up visit. One hundred and eleven days
25 passed from Plaintiff's last doctor line. The doctors at CCI failed to give Plaintiff proper medical
26 care.

27 On December 5, 2012, Plaintiff saw Dr. Lee for medical treatment. Plaintiff reminded Dr.
28 Lee of his injuries and that nothing had been done to fix them. On December 13, 2012, Plaintiff

1 saw Dr. Lee again. Plaintiff received an injection in his shoulder to help with the pain. Plaintiff
2 informed Dr. Lee that he experienced pain in his shoulder if he tried to exercise or lift things.
3 Plaintiff also experienced dizziness and fatigue as a result of his injuries. Plaintiff told Dr. Lee
4 that his injuries cause him stress on a daily basis. Dr. Lee told Plaintiff that he would recommend
5 Plaintiff for a MRI, neurological consultation, and physical therapy at the weekly administration
6 meeting.

7 Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative appeals. Defendants A. Joaquin, S. Shiesha, and
8 L.D. Zamora all denied his appeals for medical treatment.

9 Plaintiff asserted violations of the First, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments. Plaintiff
10 requested injunctive relief and compensatory and punitive damages.

11 The Court screened the complaint and dismissed it with leave to amend for failure to state
12 a claim. Plaintiff was advised that he could not add any new, unrelated claims to the action via the
13 amended complaint and any attempt to do so could result in an order striking the amended
14 complaint, and dismissal of the action with prejudice.

15 B. Amended Complaint

16 In his Second Amended Complaint, Plaintiff completely abandons the claims he presented
17 in his original complaint. Plaintiff does not present any claims concerning his arm and shoulder
18 injuries, and the alleged medical care or lack thereof that he received in 2011 through 2012.

19 In the Court's order dismissing his original complaint, the Court explained that an
20 amended complaint supersedes the original complaint, *Lacey v. Maricopa County*, 693 F.3d 896,
21 907 n.1 (9th Cir. 2012) (en banc), and must be "complete in itself without reference to the prior or
22 superseded pleading," Local Rule 220.

23 In the Second Amended Complaint, Plaintiff brings new and unrelated claims concerning a
24 left leg injury sustained in July of 2013. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Lee failed to provide him
25 with adequate medical care concerning his left leg. Plaintiff complains that Defendant Tate failed
26 to give him medical care concerning his shoulder following surgery which had been performed on
27 July 10, 2013. He further complains that Defendant Tate took away his asthma treatment inhalers
28 for no reason on October 1, 2013. He claims he appealed the issue to Defendant Holland. Further,

1 he complains that on January 9, 2014, Defendant Tate threatened to write him up if he continued
2 to request inhalers.

3 On January 29, 2014, Plaintiff called “man down” due to a flare-up of his asthma
4 condition. Plaintiff was taken to the medical clinic. Plaintiff utilized his inhalers, but it took
5 several hours for his condition to return to normal. Plaintiff was taken to a holding cell and Nurse
6 Nagandi took his used inhaler and did not give him a new one.

7 On February 7 or 8, 2014, Plaintiff again called “man down” for an asthma attack.
8 Plaintiff was seen by a nurse who gave him an injection.

9 On February 12, 2014, Plaintiff was seen again by Defendant Tate. Plaintiff asked for his
10 inhalers, but Tate denied his requests and again threatened Plaintiff that he would write him up if
11 he persisted in his requests.

12 On April 10, 2014, Plaintiff was seen by physician assistant Allen. Plaintiff went over his
13 medical problems. Allen said she would look into it and call Plaintiff back but she did not.

14 On May 29, 2014, Plaintiff went to Dr. Tate for a follow-up visit. Plaintiff complained of
15 his shoulder and arm pain and his asthma problems. He requested a cortisone shot. He requested
16 the recommendations of previous doctors be accommodated. Defendant Tate denied all of his
17 requests including effective pain medications.

18 On June 23, 2014, Plaintiff was seen by a dentist for his yearly check-up. Certain
19 treatments, tests and surgical corrections were recommended but they have not been done.

20 On July 25, 2014, Plaintiff went to Defendant Tate and asked for an accommodation
21 chrono due to his medical problems. Defendant Tate denied the request. Plaintiff complained of
22 his injuries and pain. Defendant Tate stated he understood his complaints and that proper
23 treatment would require the services of an orthopedic surgeon; however, Tate declined to refer
24 Plaintiff to an orthopedic specialist.

25 Lastly, Plaintiff makes numerous conclusory claims against the Defendants he named in
26 his original complaint. Plaintiff presents no facts at all in support of his claims.

27 C. Conclusion

28 Plaintiff’s Second Amended Complaint⁶ completely fails to comply with the Court’s

1 screening order of April 23, 2014. Plaintiff has presented only new and unrelated claims in his
2 amended complaint. Plaintiff was advised that the amended complaint supersedes the original
3 complaint and must be complete in itself. *Forsyth v. Humana, Inc.*, 114 F.3d 1467, 1474 (9th Cir.
4 1997); Local Rule 220. Plaintiff was further forewarned that attempting to add new and unrelated
5 claims would result in an order striking the amended complaint, and failure to comply could result
6 in dismissal with prejudice for failure to state a claim.

7 **IV. Conclusion and Order**

8 Accordingly, the Second Amended Complaint is hereby STRICKEN. The Court will
9 provide Plaintiff with **one final opportunity** to file an amended complaint curing the deficiencies
10 identified by the Court in its previous order of April 23, 2014. *Noll v. Carlson*, 809 F.2d 1446,
11 1448-49 (9th Cir. 1987). Plaintiff is again instructed that he may not change the nature of this suit
12 by adding new, unrelated claims in his amended complaint. *George v. Smith*, 507 F.3d 605, 607
13 (7th Cir. 2007). Plaintiff is again advised that an amended complaint supersedes the original
14 complaint, *Forsyth*, 114 F.3d at 1474, and must be “complete in itself without reference to the
15 prior or superseded pleading,” Local Rule 220.

16 Accordingly, it is HEREBY ORDERED that:

17 1. The Clerk’s Office shall send Plaintiff a complaint form;
18 2. Plaintiff’s Second Amended Complaint is STRICKEN;
19 3. Plaintiff is GRANTED leave to file a Third Amended Complaint within thirty (30)

20 days from the date of service of this order. Plaintiff may not add any new, unrelated claims to this
21 action via the first amended complaint and any attempt to do so may result in an order striking the
22 first amended complaint. If Plaintiff fails to file an amended complaint in compliance with this
23 order, this action will be dismissed, with prejudice, for failure to state a claim.

24
25 IT IS SO ORDERED.

26 Dated: September 15, 2015

27 /s/ Dennis L. Beck

28 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE