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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TROY COOPER,

Plaintiff,

No. CIV S-10-1057 GEB DAD P

vs.

KAUR et al.,

Defendants.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

_____ /

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding pro se with a civil rights action seeking relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This matter is before the court on a motion for summary judgment brought on behalf of defendant Naku pursuant to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff has filed an opposition to the motion, and defendant Naku has filed a reply.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiff is proceeding on an amended complaint against defendants Pharmacist Naku and Dr. Chen.¹ In relevant part, plaintiff alleges in his complaint as follows. Plaintiff suffers from peripheral vascular disease and has undergone multiple surgical procedures in

¹ Defense counsel previously filed a motion for summary judgment on behalf of defendant Dr. Chen, which this court denied on March 16, 2012. The pending motion is brought solely on behalf of defendant Naku.

1 connection with that condition at Queen of the Valley Hospital (“QVH”). In March 2008, after
2 his second surgery, plaintiff was discharged from QVH with a prescription for Coumadin, a
3 blood thinner. According to plaintiff, notwithstanding his prescription, he spent the next eight
4 days incarcerated at CSP-Solano without access to Coumadin. In plaintiff’s view, defendant
5 Pharmacist Naku was at fault for not ensuring that he received his prescribed medication. On
6 April 10, 2008, plaintiff began to experience right lower extremity pain and coldness in his right
7 leg and ultimately had to return to QVH to undergo a third surgery. (Am. Compl. at 4-7.)

8 In October 2008, plaintiff complained to medical personnel that he was suffering
9 from pain in his lower right leg once more. On November 5, 2008, one Dr. Loftus examined
10 plaintiff and determined he had developed a blood clot and needed to undergo a fourth surgery.
11 After his fourth surgery, plaintiff returned to CSP-Solano and experienced no difficulties for the
12 next month or so. However, on or about December 8, 2008, he began to experience pain his
13 lower right leg again and believes that it was because he ran out of Coumadin on December 4,
14 2008. According to plaintiff, defendant Pharmacist Naku failed to refill his prescription at that
15 time. On December 29, 2008, plaintiff saw a Dr. Rohrer who examined plaintiff’s foot and
16 found that it was cold. Plaintiff had to return to QVH once more where he was required to
17 undergo an amputation of his leg below the right knee. (Am. Compl. at 9-12.)

18 Based on these allegations, plaintiff claims that defendant Pharmacist Naku has
19 been deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs in violation of the Eighth Amendment.
20 In terms of relief, plaintiff requests damages. (Am. Compl. at 13 & 15.)

21 **SUMMARY JUDGMENT STANDARDS UNDER RULE 56**

22 Summary judgment is appropriate when it is demonstrated that there exists “no
23 genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a
24 matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c).

25 Under summary judgment practice, the moving party
26 always bears the initial responsibility of informing the district court
of the basis for its motion, and identifying those portions of “the

1 pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions
2 on file, together with the affidavits, if any,” which it believes
3 demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of material fact.

4 Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)). “[W]here the
5 nonmoving party will bear the burden of proof at trial on a dispositive issue, a summary
6 judgment motion may properly be made in reliance solely on the ‘pleadings, depositions, answers
7 to interrogatories, and admissions on file.’” Id. Indeed, summary judgment should be entered,
8 after adequate time for discovery and upon motion, against a party who fails to make a showing
9 sufficient to establish the existence of an element essential to that party’s case, and on which that
10 party will bear the burden of proof at trial. See id. at 322. “[A] complete failure of proof
11 concerning an essential element of the nonmoving party’s case necessarily renders all other facts
12 immaterial.” Id. In such a circumstance, summary judgment should be granted, “so long as
13 whatever is before the district court demonstrates that the standard for entry of summary
14 judgment, as set forth in Rule 56(c), is satisfied.” Id. at 323.

15 If the moving party meets its initial responsibility, the burden then shifts to the
16 opposing party to establish that a genuine issue as to any material fact actually does exist. See
17 Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986). In attempting to
18 establish the existence of this factual dispute, the opposing party may not rely upon the
19 allegations or denials of its pleadings but is required to tender evidence of specific facts in the
20 form of affidavits, and/or admissible discovery material, in support of its contention that the
21 dispute exists. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e); Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 586 n.11. The opposing party
22 must demonstrate that the fact in contention is material, i.e., a fact that might affect the outcome
23 of the suit under the governing law, see Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248
24 (1986); T.W. Elec. Serv., Inc. v. Pacific Elec. Contractors Ass’n, 809 F.2d 626, 630 (9th Cir.
25 1987), and that the dispute is genuine, i.e., the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could
26 return a verdict for the nonmoving party, see Wool v. Tandem Computers, Inc., 818 F.2d 1433,
1436 (9th Cir. 1987).

1 In the endeavor to establish the existence of a factual dispute, the opposing party
2 need not establish a material issue of fact conclusively in its favor. It is sufficient that “the
3 claimed factual dispute be shown to require a jury or judge to resolve the parties’ differing
4 versions of the truth at trial.” T.W. Elec. Serv., 809 F.2d at 631. Thus, the “purpose of summary
5 judgment is to ‘pierce the pleadings and to assess the proof in order to see whether there is a
6 genuine need for trial.’” Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 587 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e) advisory
7 committee’s note on 1963 amendments).

8 In resolving the summary judgment motion, the court examines the pleadings,
9 depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if
10 any. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c). The evidence of the opposing party is to be believed. See Anderson,
11 477 U.S. at 255. All reasonable inferences that may be drawn from the facts placed before the
12 court must be drawn in favor of the opposing party. See Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 587.
13 Nevertheless, inferences are not drawn out of the air, and it is the opposing party’s obligation to
14 produce a factual predicate from which the inference may be drawn. See Richards v. Nielsen
15 Freight Lines, 602 F. Supp. 1224, 1244-45 (E.D. Cal. 1985), aff’d, 810 F.2d 898, 902 (9th Cir.
16 1987). Finally, to demonstrate a genuine issue, the opposing party “must do more than simply
17 show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material facts Where the record taken
18 as a whole could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the nonmoving party, there is no
19 ‘genuine issue for trial.’” Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 587 (citation omitted).

20 OTHER APPLICABLE LEGAL STANDARDS

21 I. Civil Rights Act Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983

22 The Civil Rights Act under which this action was filed provides as follows:

23 Every person who, under color of [state law] . . . subjects, or causes
24 to be subjected, any citizen of the United States . . . to the
25 deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the
26 Constitution . . . shall be liable to the party injured in an action at
law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress.

42 U.S.C. § 1983. The statute requires that there be an actual connection or link between the

1 actions of the defendants and the deprivation alleged to have been suffered by plaintiff. See
2 Monell v. Department of Social Servs., 436 U.S. 658 (1978); Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362
3 (1976). “A person ‘subjects’ another to the deprivation of a constitutional right, within the
4 meaning of § 1983, if he does an affirmative act, participates in another’s affirmative acts or
5 omits to perform an act which he is legally required to do that causes the deprivation of which
6 complaint is made.” Johnson v. Duffy, 588 F.2d 740, 743 (9th Cir. 1978).

7 Moreover, supervisory personnel are generally not liable under § 1983 for the
8 actions of their employees under a theory of respondeat superior and, therefore, when a named
9 defendant holds a supervisory position, the causal link between him and the claimed
10 constitutional violation must be specifically alleged. See Fayle v. Stapley, 607 F.2d 858, 862
11 (9th Cir. 1979); Mosher v. Saalfeld, 589 F.2d 438, 441 (9th Cir. 1978). Vague and conclusory
12 allegations concerning the involvement of official personnel in civil rights violations are not
13 sufficient. See Ivey v. Board of Regents, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir. 1982).

14 II. The Eighth Amendment and Inadequate Medical Care

15 The unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain constitutes cruel and unusual
16 punishment prohibited by the Eighth Amendment. Whitley v. Albers, 475 U.S. 312, 319 (1986);
17 Ingraham v. Wright, 430 U.S. 651, 670 (1977); Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 105-06 (1976).
18 In order to prevail on a claim of cruel and unusual punishment, a prisoner must allege and prove
19 that objectively he suffered a sufficiently serious deprivation and that subjectively prison officials
20 acted with deliberate indifference in allowing or causing the deprivation to occur. Wilson v.
21 Seiter, 501 U.S. 294, 298-99 (1991).

22 Where a prisoner’s Eighth Amendment claims arise in the context of medical
23 care, the prisoner must allege and prove “acts or omissions sufficiently harmful to evidence
24 deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.” Estelle, 429 U.S. at 106. An Eighth
25 Amendment medical claim has two elements: “the seriousness of the prisoner’s medical need
26 and the nature of the defendant’s response to that need.” McGuckin v. Smith, 974 F.2d 1050,

1 1059 (9th Cir. 1991), overruled on other grounds by WMX Techs., Inc. v. Miller, 104 F.3d 1133
2 (9th Cir. 1997) (en banc).

3 A medical need is serious “if the failure to treat the prisoner’s condition could
4 result in further significant injury or the ‘unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain.’”
5 McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1059 (quoting Estelle, 429 U.S. at 104). Indications of a serious medical
6 need include “the presence of a medical condition that significantly affects an individual’s daily
7 activities.” Id. at 1059-60. By establishing the existence of a serious medical need, a prisoner
8 satisfies the objective requirement for proving an Eighth Amendment violation. Farmer v.
9 Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 834 (1994).

10 If a prisoner establishes the existence of a serious medical need, he must then
11 show that prison officials responded to the serious medical need with deliberate indifference.
12 Farmer, 511 U.S. at 834. In general, deliberate indifference may be shown when prison officials
13 deny, delay, or intentionally interfere with medical treatment, or may be shown by the way in
14 which prison officials provide medical care. Hutchinson v. United States, 838 F.2d 390, 393-94
15 (9th Cir. 1988). Before it can be said that a prisoner’s civil rights have been abridged with regard
16 to medical care, however, “the indifference to his medical needs must be substantial. Mere
17 ‘indifference,’ ‘negligence,’ or ‘medical malpractice’ will not support this cause of action.”
18 Broughton v. Cutter Laboratories, 622 F.2d 458, 460 (9th Cir. 1980) (citing Estelle, 429 U.S. at
19 105-06). See also Toguchi v. Soon Hwang Chung, 391 F.3d 1051, 1057 (9th Cir. 2004) (“Mere
20 negligence in diagnosing or treating a medical condition, without more, does not violate a
21 prisoner’s Eighth Amendment rights.”); McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1059 (same). Deliberate
22 indifference is “a state of mind more blameworthy than negligence” and “requires ‘more than
23 ordinary lack of due care for the prisoner’s interests or safety.’” Farmer, 511 U.S. at 835
24 (quoting Whitley, 475 U.S. at 319).

25 Delays in providing medical care may manifest deliberate indifference. Estelle,
26 429 U.S. at 104-05. To establish a claim of deliberate indifference arising from delay in

1 providing care, a plaintiff must show that the delay was harmful. See Berry v. Bunnell, 39 F.3d
2 1056, 1057 (9th Cir. 1994); McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1059; Wood v. Housewright, 900 F.2d 1332,
3 1335 (9th Cir. 1990); Hunt v. Dental Dep't, 865 F.2d 198, 200 (9th Cir. 1989); Shapley v.
4 Nevada Bd. of State Prison Comm'rs, 766 F.2d 404, 407 (9th Cir. 1985). In this regard, “[a]
5 prisoner need not show his harm was substantial; however, such would provide additional
6 support for the inmate’s claim that the defendant was deliberately indifferent to his needs.” Jett
7 v. Penner, 439 F.3d 1091, 1096 (9th Cir. 2006). See also McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1060.

8 Finally, mere differences of opinion between a prisoner and prison medical staff
9 or between medical professionals as to the proper course of treatment for a medical condition do
10 not give rise to a § 1983 claim. Toguchi, 391 F.3d at 1058; Jackson v. McIntosh, 90 F.3d 330,
11 332 (9th Cir. 1996); Sanchez v. Vild, 891 F.2d 240, 242 (9th Cir. 1989); Franklin v. Oregon, 662
12 F.2d 1337, 1344 (9th Cir. 1981).

13 **DEFENDANT’S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

14 I. Defendant’s Statement of Undisputed Facts and Evidence

15 Defendant’s statement of undisputed facts is supported by citations to declarations
16 signed under penalty of perjury by defendants Pharmacist Naku and Dr. Chen and citations to
17 plaintiff’s medical records. It is also supported by references to excerpts from plaintiff’s
18 deposition testimony as well as plaintiff’s responses to defendant’s discovery requests.

19 The evidence submitted by defendant Naku establishes the following. In 2005,
20 plaintiff was diagnosed as suffering from peripheral vascular disease (“PVD”). PVD is a
21 progressive narrowing or blocking of the arteries which results in restricted blood flow to the leg
22 or limb. PVD can cause coldness, bluish discoloration, pain when walking (called
23 “claudication”), or gangrene in the extremities. (Def.’s SUDF 1-2, Pl’s Dep., Esquivel Decl. Ex.
24 C, Chen Decl.)

25 On April 2, 2008, plaintiff received a prescription for Coumadin, a blood thinner,
26 to treat his PVD. The medical or nursing staff where an inmate is housed is responsible for

1 forwarding any order or prescription to the pharmacy at CSP-Solano. Otherwise, the pharmacy
2 has no way of knowing that the inmate needs medication. Defendant Pharmacist Naku did not
3 issue the order prescribing plaintiff Coumadin and did not know that plaintiff had a prescription
4 for Coumadin. Nor did she know that he did not receive any prescribed medication. (Def.'s
5 SUDF 3-5, Esquivel Decl. Ex. G, Naku Decl.)

6 As a pharmacy supervisor, defendant Pharmacist Naku did not personally fill or
7 receive the prescriptions sent to the pharmacy and did not personally supervise or oversee the
8 filling of every prescription received at the pharmacy. Defendant Pharmacist Naku did not
9 supervise or oversee the administration, distribution, or dispensing of medication to inmates.
10 Rather, nursing staff was responsible for dispensing and administering medication to inmates.
11 (Def.'s SUDF 6-7, Naku Decl.)

12 According to plaintiff's responses to defendant's discovery requests, plaintiff has
13 no evidence that defendant Pharmacist Naku was aware of plaintiff's prescription for Coumadin
14 or that plaintiff was not receiving his prescribed medication. Plaintiff also has no evidence that
15 defendant Pharmacist Naku acted with deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs.
16 (Def.'s SUDF 8-9, Esquivel Decl. Exs. E & F.)

17 II. Defendant's Arguments

18 Defense counsel argues that defendant Pharmacist Naku is entitled to summary
19 judgment in her favor with respect to plaintiff's Eighth Amendment claims because there is no
20 evidence before the court indicating that the defendant was deliberately indifferent to plaintiff's
21 medical needs. Specifically, defense counsel argues defendant Pharmacist Naku did not know
22 that plaintiff had a prescription for Coumadin or that he was not receiving his prescribed
23 medication. Moreover, counsel argues that plaintiff himself admits as much in his responses to
24 defendant's discovery requests. Finally, counsel argues that defendant Naku cannot be held
25 liable as a supervisor because there is no evidence that she deprived plaintiff of his prescribed
26 medication, knew that he was not receiving his medication and failed to intervene, or

1 implemented a policy or procedure that caused the deprivation of his medication. (Def.'s Mem.
2 of P. & A. at 3-6.)

3 III. Plaintiff's Opposition

4 In opposition to defendant's motion for summary judgment, plaintiff has filed a
5 "motion to deny defendant's motion for summary judgment, or in the alternative, motion to
6 dismiss." Therein, plaintiff refers the court to his filing from February 24, 2012, which includes
7 a declaration from plaintiff as well as a memorandum of points and authorities and attached
8 exhibits. The court previously construed plaintiff's February 24, 2012 filing as a motion
9 pursuant to Rule 56(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, denied the motion, and
10 granted plaintiff additional time to file a further opposition to defendant Naku's motion for
11 summary judgment. However, in light of plaintiff's most recent request that the court treat his
12 February 24, 2012 filing as his opposition, the court will proceed to address the pending motion
13 for summary judgment without further delay.

14 In his opposition, plaintiff declares that on April 10, 2008, he went to the medical
15 annex after he had not received his Coumadin for eight days. Plaintiff also submits to the court
16 copies of his health care services request forms, which he believes reflect a pattern of medication
17 not being delivered to him in a timely manner, as well as a copy of the California Department of
18 Corrections and Rehabilitation policy governing pharmacy responsibilities, scope of service, and
19 supervision. (Pl.'s Decl. at 5 & Exs. H & I.)

20 IV. Defendant's Reply

21 In reply, defense counsel reiterates that the undisputed evidence shows that
22 defendant Pharmacist Naku neither knew of plaintiff's prescription for Coumadin nor was aware
23 that plaintiff was not receiving his prescribed medication. Defense counsel contends that
24 plaintiff has not submitted any evidence to show that his prescription was sent to the pharmacy,
25 that defendant Pharmacist Naku received it, or that defendant Naku refused or failed to fill it.
26 (Def.'s Reply at 3.)

1 ANALYSIS

2 I. Plaintiff's Serious Medical Needs

3 The parties do not dispute, and the undersigned concludes, that based upon the
4 evidence presented by the parties in connection with the pending motion a reasonable juror could
5 (and in fact would) conclude that plaintiff's PVD constitutes an objective, serious medical need.
6 See McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1059-60 ("The existence of an injury that a reasonable doctor or
7 patient would find important and worthy of comment or treatment; the presence of a medical
8 condition that significantly affects an individual's daily activities; or the existence of chronic and
9 substantial pain are examples of indications that a prisoner has a 'serious' need for medical
10 treatment."); Canell v. Bradshaw, 840 F. Supp. 1382, 1393 (D. Or. 1993) (the Eighth
11 Amendment duty to provide medical care applies "to medical conditions that may result in pain
12 and suffering which serve no legitimate penological purpose.").

13 Specifically, plaintiff's largely undisputed medical history and the observations
14 and treatment recommendations by plaintiff's doctors, including defendant Dr. Chen as well as
15 other prison doctors and the doctors at QVH, compel the conclusion that plaintiff's medical
16 condition, if left untreated, could result in "further significant injury" and the "unnecessary and
17 wanton infliction of pain." McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1059. Accordingly, resolution of the motion
18 for summary judgment brought on behalf of defendant Naku hinges on whether, based upon the
19 evidence before the court, a rationale jury could conclude that the defendant responded to
20 plaintiff's serious medical needs with deliberate indifference. See Farmer, 511 U.S. at 834;
21 Estelle, 429 U.S. at 106.

22 II. Defendant's Response to Plaintiff's Serious Medical Needs

23 The court finds that defendant Pharmacist Naku has borne the initial
24 responsibility of demonstrating that there is no genuine issue of material fact with respect to the
25 adequacy of the medical care provided to plaintiff. Specifically, defendant Pharmacist Naku's
26 evidence demonstrates that on April 2, 2008, plaintiff received a prescription for Coumadin, a

1 blood thinner, to treat his PVD. However, defendant Pharmacist Naku did not issue the order
2 prescribing Coumadin for plaintiff and did not know that plaintiff had a prescription for
3 Coumadin. Nor did she know that plaintiff did not receive his prescribed medication. The
4 medical or nursing staff where an inmate is housed is responsible for forwarding any order or
5 prescription to the pharmacy at CSP-Solano. Otherwise, the pharmacy has no way of knowing
6 that the inmate needs medication. (Esquivel Decl. Ex. G, Naku Decl.)

7 As a pharmacy supervisor, defendant Pharmacist Naku did not personally fill or
8 receive the prescriptions sent to the pharmacy and did not personally supervise or oversee the
9 filling of every prescription received at the pharmacy. Defendant Pharmacist Naku did not
10 supervise or oversee the administration, distribution, or dispensing of medication to inmates.
11 Nursing staff was responsible for dispensing and administering medication to inmates. (Esquivel
12 Decl. Ex. C, Naku Decl.)

13 Given the evidence submitted by defendant Pharmacist Naku in support of the
14 pending motion for summary judgment, the burden shifts to plaintiff to establish the existence of
15 a genuine issue of material fact with respect to his inadequate medical care claims. On
16 defendant's motion for summary judgment, the court is required to believe plaintiff's evidence
17 and draw all reasonable inferences from the facts before the court in plaintiff's favor. The court
18 has reviewed plaintiff's verified complaint, his opposition to defendant's motion, and his
19 deposition testimony. Drawing all reasonable inferences in plaintiff's favor, the court concludes
20 that plaintiff has not submitted sufficient evidence in this action to create a genuine issue of
21 material fact with respect to his claim that defendant Pharmacist Naku violated his rights under
22 the Eighth Amendment.

23 Specifically, the evidence presented by plaintiff fails to demonstrate that
24 defendant Pharmacist Naku responded to plaintiff's serious medical needs with deliberate
25 indifference or acted in conscious disregard of an excessive risk to plaintiff's health. See Farmer,
26 511 U.S. at 834 & 837; Estelle, 429 U.S. at 106; Gibson v. County of Washoe, 290 F.3d 1175

1 (9th Cir. 2002) (“In order to know of the excessive risk, it is not enough that the person merely
2 ‘be aware of facts from which their inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious
3 harm exists, [] he must also draw that inference.’”) (quoting Farmer, 511 U.S. at 842). Here,
4 there is no evidence that defendant Pharmacist Naku knew that plaintiff had a prescription for
5 Coumadin or knew that plaintiff was not receiving his medication. In fact, in his responses to
6 defendant’s discovery requests plaintiff admits that he has no such evidence. (Def.’s Esquivel
7 Decl. Exs. E & F.)

8 Nor is there evidence before the court that as a pharmacy supervisor, defendant
9 Pharmacist Naku personally filled or received prescriptions sent to the pharmacy or that she
10 personally supervised or oversaw the filling of plaintiff’s prescriptions for Coumadin. The Ninth
11 Circuit has recently reaffirmed that a supervisory defendant may be held liable under § 1983 only
12 “‘if there exists either (1) his or her personal involvement in the constitutional deprivation, or (2)
13 a sufficient causal connection between the supervisor’s wrongful conduct and the constitutional
14 violation.’” Starr v. Baca, 652 F.3d 1202, 1207 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting Hansen v. Black, 885
15 F.2d 642, 646 (9th Cir. 1989)). Here, plaintiff has not come forward with any evidence in
16 opposition to the pending motion for summary judgment indicating that defendant Pharmacist
17 Naku was personally involved in his medical care. Plaintiff has also failed to demonstrate a
18 sufficient causal connection between the defendant Naku’s conduct, if any, and any alleged
19 constitutional violation.

20 Finally, it is well established that before it can be said that a prisoner’s civil rights
21 have been abridged, “the indifference to his medical needs must be substantial. Mere
22 ‘indifference,’ ‘negligence,’ or ‘medical malpractice’ will not support this cause of action.”
23 Broughton v. Cutter Lab., 622 F.2d 458, 460 (9th Cir. 1980) (citing Estelle, 429 U.S. at 105-06).
24 Here, at most, defendant Pharmacist Naku’s conduct or failure to act constitutes neglect or
25 medical malpractice. Indeed, any purported failure on her part can at most be characterized as
26 isolated occurrences or isolated exceptions, which the Ninth Circuit has determined “militates

1 advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the
2 District Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

3 DATED: June 1, 2012.

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DALE A. DROZD
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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