# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY : PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

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SHIRLEY A. WICK, R.N. RESPONDENT.

LS06071310NUR

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The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stats. sec. 227.53 are:

Shirley A. Wick, RN 6520 88<sup>th</sup> Ave Kenosha, WI 53142

Wisconsin Board of Nursing P.O. Box 8935 Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing Division of Enforcement P.O. Box 8935 Madison, WI 53708-8935

#### PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Board. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Shirley A. Wick (D.O.B. 2/14/74) is duly licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a professional nurse (license #144739). This license was first granted on 8/14/03.
- 2. On December 26-27, 2003, Respondent was assigned to nurse C.G., a man born in 1942, who was a patient at the Aurora Medical Center, Kenosha, Wisconsin. The patient had undergone a laminectomy and was on a surgical floor, he was obese and was known to have been a heavy smoker with a history of sleep apnea, and a mouth breather. Respondent understood the physician's orders to include a check of the patient's vital signs every 4 hours.
- 3. At approximately 12:18 AM on 12/27/03, Respondent checked the patient's vital signs and observed that his oxygen saturation was 85% on 3½ liters via nasal cannula, while asleep; his oxygenation was at 94% several minutes earlier, while awake. Respondent took no action upon this information, and did not check the patient again until 4:40 AM.
- 4. At approximately 4:40 AM on the same day, Respondent checked the patient and observed him to be unconscious, with oxygen saturation at 58% on 3½ liters; his blood pressure was 42/25 and respirations were 8. Respondent's nursing note reads: "Pt found with copious amount of saliva running from mouth. Pt was unresponsive to tactile stimulation (i.e. sternal rub). Respirations shallow =8. See graphics for vitals. MD notified, supervisor notified. Code 4 call, ER Dr. [...]." Upon arrival, the ER physician noted the patient to be in asystole, and that CPR had been started with bagging; the patient was intubated and ACLS measures were instituted. The patient expired despite these efforts to resuscitate him, and was pronounced dead at 5:05 AM.
- 5. The Board finds that a patient of this history should have been frequently checked to see if he was breathing through the mouth while asleep; the nasal cannula would then be placed so as to deliver oxygen to the mouth, or the patient would have had the cannula replaced with a mask. The Board further finds that a minimally competent nurse would, upon seeing the oxygen saturation of 85%, taken steps to increase this level, including awakening the patient, consulting a supervisor, and consulting the physician on call or the attending physician.
- 6. Since this event, Respondent has taken the following continuing nursing education courses through her employer, Aurora Health, among others: a 7 hour course in physical assessment on 6/16/04, and an 8 hour course in care of the cardiovascular patient on 5/25/04.

## CONCLUSION OF LAW

By the conduct described above, respondent is subject to disciplinary action against her license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin, pursuant to Wis. Stats. §441.07(1)(b) and (d), and Wis. Adm. Code § N 7.03(1)(a), (b), and (c).

### **ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Shirley A. Wick, R.N., is REPRIMANDED for her unprofessional conduct in this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall pay the costs of investigating and prosecuting this matter, in the amount of \$900, before her license is next renewed.

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: Marilyn Kaufmann A Member of the Board July 13, 2006

Date