

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Safety and Professional Services from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Safety and Professional Services data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name* as it appears on the order.
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup."

The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at:

<http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wscca>

- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.

Correcting information on the DSPS website: An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact DSPS@wisconsin.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY | : | |
| PROCEEDINGS AGAINST | : | |
| | : | FINAL DECISION AND ORDER |
| PATRICK D. HALTON, R.PH., | : | |
| RESPONDENT. | : | 0002447 |

Division of Legal Services and Compliance¹ Case No. 13 PHM 003

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Patrick D. Halton, R.Ph.
321 19th Street South
La Crosse, WI 54601-5069

Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board (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, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Patrick D. Halton, R.Ph. (dob April 7, 1954) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a registered pharmacist, having license number 9327-40, first issued on March 8, 1978 and current through May 31, 2014. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 321 19th Street South, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601-5069.

¹ The Division of Legal Services and Compliance was formerly known as the Division of Enforcement.

2. On December 17, 2012, the City of La Crosse Police Department arrested Respondent for diverting drugs from two Walgreens pharmacies where he was employed as a pharmacist. Respondent admitted that over a five year period he had diverted the Schedule IV controlled substances alprazolam, zolpidem, and diazepam for his own personal use.

3. On December 19, 2012, Respondent submitted to a drug test as part of his arrest and tested positive for benzodiazepines.

4. Walgreens Pharmacy conducted an audit of the controlled substances for both pharmacies at which Respondent was employed and discovered that the following Schedule IV controlled substances were missing:

- a. 1,246 tablets of alprazolam 0.25 mg.
- b. 215 tablets of alprazolam 0.50 mg.
- c. 1,495 tablets of alprazolam 1.0 mg.
- d. 78 tablets of Ambien (zolpidem) 10 mg.
- e. 80 tablets of Ambien (zolpidem) CR 6.25 mg.
- f. 200 tablets of Ambien (zolpidem) CR 12.5 mg.
- g. 1,668 tablets of zolpidem 5mg.
- h. 4,549 tablets of zolpidem 10 mg.
- i. 295 tablets of zolpidem CR 6.25 mg
- j. 2346 tablets of diazepam 5 mg.

5. According to the audit performed by Walgreens, an approximate total of 12,172 tablets of Schedule IV controlled substances were missing.

6. On January 29, 2013, Respondent was charged in La Cross County with one felony count of the theft of movable property >\$2500 - \$5000, a violation of Wis. Stats. § 943.20(1)(a), and three misdemeanor counts of the possession of illegally obtained prescription medications, a violation of Wis. Stat. § 450.11(7)(h).

7. Respondent was terminated from his position at Walgreens Pharmacy. Respondent represents that he does not intend to practice as a pharmacist until this matter with the Board is resolved.

8. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 450.10(1), and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. Patrick D. Halton, R.Ph., engaged in unprofessional conduct by violating Wis. Admin. Code § Phar 10.03(1) by obtaining a drug other than in legitimate practice, or as prohibited by law.

3. As a result of the above violations, Patrick D. Halton, R.Ph. is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 450.10(1)(b)1.

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The license issued to Respondent Patrick D. Halton, R.Ph. to practice as a registered pharmacist in the State of Wisconsin (license number 9327-40) is **SUSPENDED** as follows:

SUSPENSION

- A.1. The license of Patrick D. Halton, R.Ph. to practice as a pharmacist in the State of Wisconsin is **SUSPENDED** for an indefinite period.
- A.2. Respondent shall mail or physically deliver all indicia of Wisconsin licensure to practice as a pharmacist to the Department Monitor within fourteen (14) days of the effective date of this Order. Limited credentials can be printed from the Department of Safety and Professional Services website at <http://dsps.wi.gov/index.htm>.
- A.3. Upon a showing by Respondent of continuous, successful compliance for a period of at least five (5) years with the terms of this Order, including at least 600 hours of active practice for every year the suspension is stayed, the Board may grant a petition by the Respondent under paragraph D.6. for return of full Wisconsin licensure. The Board may, on its own motion or at the request of the Department Monitor, grant full Wisconsin licensure at any time.

STAY OF SUSPENSION

- B.1. The suspension shall not be stayed for the first six (6) months, but any time after six months the suspension may be stayed upon Respondent providing proof, which is determined by the Board or its designee to be sufficient, that Respondent has been in compliance with the provisions of Sections C and D of this Order for the most recent three (3) consecutive months.
- B.2. The Board or its designee may, without hearing, remove the stay upon receipt of information that Respondent is in substantial or repeated violation of any provision of Sections C or D of this Order. A substantial violation includes, but is not limited to, a positive drug or alcohol screen. A repeated violation is defined as the multiple violation of the same provision or violation of more than one provision. The Board may, in conjunction with any removal of any stay, prohibit the Respondent for a specified period of time from seeking a reinstatement of the stay under paragraph B.4.
- B.3. This suspension becomes reinstated immediately upon notice of the removal of the stay being provided to Respondent either by:
 - (a) Mailing to Respondent's last-known address provided to the Department of Safety and Professional Services pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.11; or
 - (b) Actual notice to Respondent or Respondent's attorney.

- B.4. The Board or its designee may reinstate the stay, if provided with sufficient information that Respondent is in compliance with the Order and that it is appropriate for the stay to be reinstated. Whether to reinstate the stay shall be wholly in the discretion of the Board or its designee.
- B.5. If Respondent requests a hearing on the removal of the stay, a hearing shall be held using the procedures set forth in Wis. Admin. Code ch. SPS 2. The hearing shall be held in a timely manner with the evidentiary portion of the hearing being completed within 60 days of receipt of Respondent's request, unless waived by Respondent. Requesting a hearing does not stay the suspension during the pendency of the hearing process.

CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Treatment Required

- C.1. Respondent shall enter into, and shall continue, drug and alcohol treatment with a treater acceptable to the Board or its designee ("Treater"). Respondent shall participate in, cooperate with, and follow all treatment recommended by Treater.
- C.2. Respondent shall immediately provide Treater with a copy of this Final Decision and Order and all other subsequent orders.
- C.3. Treater shall be responsible for coordinating Respondent's rehabilitation and treatment as required under the terms of this Order, and shall immediately report any relapse, violation of any of the terms and conditions of this Order, and any suspected unprofessional conduct, to the Department Monitor (See D.1., below). If Treater is unable or unwilling to serve as required by this Order, Respondent shall immediately seek approval of a successor Treater by the Board or its designee.
- C.4. The rehabilitation program shall include individual and/or group therapy sessions at a frequency to be determined by Treater. Therapy may end only with the approval of the Board or its designee, after receiving a petition for modification as required by D.4., below.
- C.5. Treater shall submit formal written reports to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Respondent's progress in drug and alcohol treatment. Treater shall report immediately to the Department Monitor any violation or suspected violation of this Order.

Releases

- C.6. Respondent shall provide and keep on file with Treater, all treatment facilities and personnel, laboratories and collections sites current releases complying with state and federal laws. The releases shall allow the Board, its designee, and any employee of the Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Legal Services and Compliance to: (a) obtain all specimen screen results and patient health care and treatment records and reports, and (b) discuss the progress of Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation with Treater and treatment facilities

and personnel, laboratories and collection sites. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.

AA/NA Meetings

- C.7. Respondent shall attend Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings or an equivalent program for recovering professionals, at the frequency recommended by Treater, but no less than twice per week. Attendance of Respondent at such meetings shall be verified and reported quarterly to Treater and the Department Monitor.

Sobriety

- C.8. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.
- C.9. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of controlled substances as defined in Wis. Stat. § 961.01(4), except when prescribed, dispensed or administered by a practitioner for a legitimate medical condition. Respondent shall disclose Respondent's drug and alcohol history and the existence and nature of this Order to the practitioner prior to the practitioner ordering the controlled substance. Respondent shall at the time the controlled substance is ordered immediately sign a release in compliance with state and federal laws authorizing the practitioner to discuss Respondent's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, Treater and the Board or its designee. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.
- C.10. Respondent shall abstain from all use of over-the-counter medications or other substances (including but not limited to natural substances such as poppy seeds) which may mask consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation. It is Respondent's responsibility to educate himself or herself about the medications and substances which may violate this paragraph, and to avoid those medications and substances.
- C.11. Respondent shall report to Treater and the Department Monitor all prescription medications and drugs taken by Respondent. Reports must be received within 24 hours of ingestion or administration of the medication or drug, and shall identify the person or persons who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. Each time the prescription is filled or refilled, Respondent shall immediately arrange for the prescriber or pharmacy to fax and mail copies of all prescriptions to the Department Monitor.
- C.12. Respondent shall provide the Department Monitor with a list of over-the-counter medications and drugs that they may take from time to time. Over-the-counter medications and drugs that mask the consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation, shall not be taken unless ordered by a physician and approved by Treater, in which case the drug must be reported as described in paragraph C.11.

Drug and Alcohol Screens

- C.13. Respondent shall enroll and begin participation in a drug and alcohol monitoring program which is approved by the Department ("Approved Program").
- C.14. At the time Respondent enrolls in the Approved Program, Respondent shall review all of the rules and procedures made available by the Approved Program. Failure to comply with all requirements for participation in drug and alcohol monitoring established by the Approved Program is a substantial violation of this Order. The requirements shall include:
 - (a.) Contact with the Approved Program as directed on a daily basis, including vacations, weekends, and holidays.
 - (b.) Production of a urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other specimen at a collection site designated by the Approved Program within five (5) hours of notification of a test.
- C.15. The Approved Program shall require the testing of specimens at a frequency of not less than 48 times per year (with 1 additional hair test), for the first year of this Order. After the first year, Respondent may petition the Board on an annual basis for a modification of the frequency of tests. The board may adjust the frequency of testing on its own initiative at any time.
- C.16. If any urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other specimen is positive or suspected positive for any controlled substances or alcohol, Respondent shall promptly submit to additional tests or examinations as the Board or its designee shall determine to be appropriate to clarify or confirm the positive or suspected positive test results.
- C.17. In addition to any requirement of the Approved Program, the Board or its designee may require Respondent to do any or all of the following: (a) submit additional specimens; (b) furnish any specimen in a directly witnessed manner; or (c) submit specimens on a more frequent basis.
- C.18. All confirmed positive test results shall be presumed to be valid. Respondent must prove by a preponderance of the evidence an error in collection, testing, fault in the chain of custody or other valid defense.
- C.19. The Approved Program shall submit information and reports to the Department Monitor as directed.

Practice Limitations

- C.20. Respondent shall not practice as a pharmacist in any capacity unless Respondent is in full compliance with the rehabilitation and treatment programs as specified and approved under this Order. Respondent shall not practice as a pharmacist in any capacity other than in the presence and direct supervision of another pharmacist without approval of the Board or its designee.
- C.21. Respondent shall not be employed or work in the capacity of a "managing pharmacist" as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § Phar 1.02(6) without approval of the Board or its designee.

- C.22. Respondent shall not be employed as or work in the capacity of a "pharmacy technician" as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § Phar 7.015(1) without approval of the Board or its designee.
- C.23. Respondent shall not be employed as or work in the capacity of a "pharmacist in charge" as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § Phar 1.02(9) while under the terms of this Order, except as otherwise allowed herein. Respondent may petition the Board for modification of this prohibition against practice as a pharmacist in charge pursuant to the terms of paragraph D.5. In addition to complying with the conditions of paragraph D.5., any such petition shall be accompanied by written request of the managing pharmacist, which shall include a complete work schedule of all pharmacists employed in the pharmacy indicating the proposed work schedule and supervision pattern for Respondent. The Board in its discretion may at any time modify any of the terms regarding practice by Respondent as a pharmacist in charge, including removal of authorization under this Order of Respondent to practice as a pharmacist in charge, as the Board deems appropriate in the circumstances. Grounds for modification or removal of the authorization to practice as a pharmacist in charge may include, but shall not be limited to, change in employer, managing pharmacist or residence address of the Respondent.
- C.24. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Final Decision and Order and all other subsequent Orders immediately to supervisory personnel (including the managing pharmacist) at all pharmacies where Respondent is engaged in the practice of pharmacy as defined at Wis. Stat. § 450.01(16). The Board or the Department in its discretion may conduct unannounced inspections and/or audits, and make copies, of pharmacy records and inventory where Respondent is employed as a pharmacist. EMPLOYERS WHO ARE DEA REGISTRANTS ARE INFORMED THAT IF RESPONDENT HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY FELONY RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, THE EMPLOYER MUST RECEIVE A WAIVER OF 21 CFR §1301.76 UNDER 21 CFR §1307.03 BEFORE EMPLOYING RESPONDENT.
- C.25. It is Respondent's responsibility to arrange for written reports from supervisors to be provided to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Respondent's work performance, and shall include the number of hours of active pharmacist practice worked during that quarter. If a report indicates poor performance, the Board may institute appropriate corrective limitations, or may revoke a stay of the suspension, in its discretion.
- C.26. Respondent shall obtain agreement from his managing pharmacist to monitor Respondent's access to and accountability for handling of controlled substances and other abusable prescription drugs in order to reasonably detect loss, diversion, tampering, or discrepancy relating to controlled substances and other abusable prescription drugs. Respondent's supervisor shall include in the quarterly reports a description of Respondent's access to controlled substances and other abusable drugs and the monitoring thereof. Any loss, diversion, tampering, or discrepancy shall be immediately reported to the Board.

- C.27. In addition to the foregoing subparagraph, Respondent shall obtain from his supervising pharmacist an agreement to conduct a full and exact (not estimated) count of all controlled substances in inventory immediately, and accountability audits of all controlled substances every six months for the duration of this Order. The audit shall be conducted by and certified by a licensed pharmacist other than Respondent, who shall be approved by the Board. A summary of all audits required under this subparagraph shall be included in the quarterly report following the audit; however, any discrepancy or missing drugs indicated by the audits shall be immediately reported in writing to the Board.
- C.28. Respondent shall arrange for agreement by his managing pharmacist to immediately report to the Board and to the Treater any conduct or condition of Respondent that may constitute a violation of this Order or a danger to the public.
- C.29. Respondent shall not own in whole or in part any interest in a pharmacy during the period of time this Order remains in effect.
- C.30. Respondent shall report to the Board any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five (5) days of the date of a change.

MISCELLANEOUS

Department Monitor

- D.1. Any requests, petitions, reports and other information required by this Order shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or delivered to:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

Required Reporting by Respondent

- D.2. Respondent is responsible for compliance with all of the terms and conditions of this Order, including the timely submission of reports by others. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any failures of the Treater, treatment facility, Approved Program or collection sites to conform to the terms and conditions of this Order. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any violations of any of the terms and conditions of this Order by Respondent.
- D.3. Every three (3) months the Respondent shall notify the Department Monitor of the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Order, and shall provide the Department Monitor with a current address and home telephone number.

Change of Treater or Approved Program by Board

- D.4. If the Board or its designee determines the Treater or Approved Program has performed inadequately or has failed to satisfy the terms and conditions of this

Order, the Board or its designee may direct that Respondent continue treatment and rehabilitation under the direction of another Treater or Approved Program.

Petitions for Modification of Limitations or Termination of Order

- D.5. Respondent may petition the Board on an annual basis for modification of the terms of this Order, however no such petition for modification shall occur earlier than one year from the date of the initial stay of the suspension. Any petition for modification shall be accompanied by a written recommendation from Respondent's Treater expressly supporting the specific modifications sought. Denial of a petition in whole or in part shall not be considered a denial of a license within the meaning of Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a), and Respondent shall not have a right to any further hearings or proceedings on the denial.
- D.6. Respondent may petition the Board for termination of this Order anytime after five years from the date of the initial stay of the suspension. However, no petition for termination shall be considered without a showing of continuous, successful compliance with the terms of the Order, for at least five years.

Costs of Compliance

- D.7. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in conjunction with the monitoring, screening, supervision and any other expenses associated with compliance with the terms of this Order. Being dropped from a program for non-payment is a violation of this Order.

Costs of Proceeding

- D.8. Respondent shall pay costs of ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$1,150.00) to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, within ninety (90) days of this Order. Payment should be directed to the attention of the Department Monitor at the address in paragraph D.1., above. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit any payment of costs, the Respondent's license (# 9327-40) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

Additional Discipline

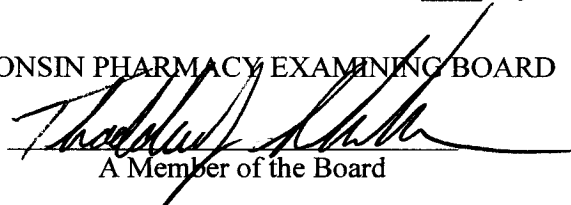
- D.9. In addition to any other action authorized by this Order or law, violation of any term of this Order may be the basis for a separate disciplinary action pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 450.10.

3. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 22 day of May, 2013.

WISCONSIN PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

By:


A Member of the Board