

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
PEGGY S. CHRISTIANSON, R.N., A.P.N.P., :  
RESPONDENT. :

0004535

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 NUR 551

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

Peggy S. Christianson, R.N., A.P.N.P.  
17166 Rudy Road  
Townsend, WI 54175

Wisconsin Board of Nursing  
P.O. Box 8366  
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 7190  
Madison, WI 53707-7190

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 Board of Nursing (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 Peggy S. Christianson, R.N., A.P.N.P., (dob November 13, 1962) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 145638-30, first issued on September 4, 2003 and current through February 29, 2016. Respondent also has a certificate in the State of Wisconsin as an advanced practice nurse prescriber, having certificate number 4429-33, first issued on June 29, 2011 and current through September 30, 2016 Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 17166 Rudy Road, Townsend, Wisconsin 54175.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as an advanced practice nurse prescriber at a clinic (Clinic), located in Lakewood, Wisconsin.

3. On January 12, 2012, Patient A presented to Respondent regarding right shoulder pain and high blood pressure. Respondent prescribed hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) for high blood pressure and ordered a basic metabolic panel (BMP) to check Patient A's kidney function and potassium levels before beginning HCTZ (a diuretic).

4. On May 17, 2012, Patient A presented to Respondent for a recheck of her blood pressure which she reported has been doing very well and that that she needed a refill of HCTZ. Patient A reported that she takes potassium if she gets leg cramps. Respondent ordered a potassium test at that visit which was 3.32 mEq/L, slightly below the normal range of 3.5 – 5.10 mEq/L. Respondent advised Patient A to continue taking potassium supplements a little more often than she was.

5. On April 24, 2013, Patient A presented to Respondent for recheck of her shoulder. Patient A complained about gas and bloating. Respondent's assessment was hypertension and bloating. Respondent instructed Patient A to increase her fluid intake to see if that improves the bloating and gas and to report continuing edema. Respondent noted that Patient A requested a thyroid screening which Respondent included in lab tests on that date. Patient A's lab tests on that date revealed a low platelet count of 79 (normal range is 150 – 450). Respondent did not address the abnormal platelet count or order additional diagnostic testing.

6. On August 12, 2013, Patient A presented to Respondent for followup regarding her low extremity edema. Patient A reported that the HCTZ was not really working anymore in reducing her edema even though she was taking more than the prescribed amount. She also reported problems with constipation for over a year and that she only has a bowel movement every couple of weeks despite using over the counter laxatives. Patient A also complained of a lot of gas and bloating.

7. Respondent's physical examination on that date revealed that Patient A had 2+ pitting edema bilaterally. Respondent's assessment was bilateral lower extremity edema, constipation and screening for colon cancer. She ordered a BMP and fecal occult blood test. The BMP results showed low sodium and potassium levels and elevated glucose. The occult blood test was negative. Respondent's plan was to continue the potassium supplements, discontinue the HCTZ, start furosemide for the edema and followup in one month. Respondent did not address the abnormal sodium or glucose levels.

8. On March 12, 2014, Patient A presented to Physician A at the Clinic with complaints of continued bilateral edema in her legs, abdominal bloating, constipation and bilateral shoulder pain. Physician A performed a physical exam and noted that the abdominal bloating was suspicious for ascites and that the differential diagnoses would include cirrhosis and malignancy of ovaries, colon and omentum. Physician A ordered a complete blood count (CBC), comprehensive metabolic panel, sedimentation rate, B type natriuretic peptide, carcinoembryonic antigen, immunoassay for tumor antigen (CA 125), an x-ray exam series of the abdomen and either a CT scan or ultrasound of the liver (depending on lab results).

9. The metabolic panel test results revealed low potassium and albumin levels and elevated AST and bilirubin levels. The CBC tests results revealed low RBC, hemoglobin,

hematocrit and platelet levels. The CA 125 test results were very elevated at 406 U/mL (normal level is below 21 U/mL).

10. On April 11, 2014, Patient A underwent a CT scan of her pelvis which showed a liver mass. Patient A was diagnosed with hepatocellular cancer.

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

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(1)<sup>1</sup>, by a substantial departure from the standard of care ordinarily exercised by a competent licensee.

3. As a result of the above violations, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(b) and (c)<sup>2</sup>.

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Peggy S. Christianson, R.N., A.P.N.P., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The professional nursing license (license number 145638-30) and certificate as an advanced practice nurse prescriber (certificate number 4429-33), issued to Respondent and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, are LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at her own expense, successfully complete six (6) hours of education on the topic of diagnosing and treating liver disease offered by a provider pre-approved by the Board's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses.
- b. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted

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<sup>1</sup> All references to Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03 refer to the Code as it existed before August 1, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> (2011-2012)

by the Board or Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.

- c. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license after satisfying the Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.

4. Pursuant to Nurse Licensure Compact regulations, Respondent's nursing practice is limited to Wisconsin during the pendency of this limitation. This requirement may be waived only upon the prior written authorization of both the Wisconsin Board of Nursing and the regulatory board in the state in which Respondent proposes to practice.

5. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$300.00.

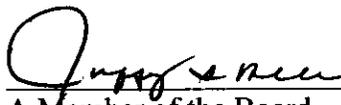
6. Request for approval of courses, proof of successful course completion and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent by Respondent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor  
Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190  
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264  
[DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov)

7. Violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit payment of the costs as ordered or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education as set forth above, Respondent's license (no. 145638-30) and certificate (no. 4429-33) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of costs and has submitted proof of successful completion of the ordered education.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by:  Jennifer A. New DNP, APRN  
A Member of the Board

2.11.16  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

PEGGY S. CHRISTIANSON, R.N., A.P.N.P.,  
RESPONDENT.

STIPULATION

0004535

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 NUR 551

Respondent Peggy S. Christianson, R.N., A.P.N.P., and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
- the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondent;
- the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
- the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
- the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
- the right to petition for rehearing; and
- all other applicable rights afforded to Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation. Respondent is represented by attorney Richard E. Nell.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

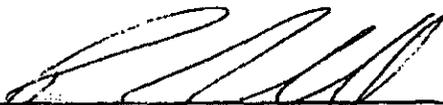
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's attorney, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

  
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Peggy S. Christianson, R.N., A.P.N.P., Respondent  
17166 Rudy Road  
Townsend, WI 54175  
License no. 145638-30  
Certificate no. 4429-33

1-20-16  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard E. Nell, Attorney for Respondent  
Nell & Associates, S.C.  
380 Main Avenue  
P.O. Box 5933  
De Pere, WI 54115

1-20-16  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim M. Kluck, Attorney  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
P.O. Box 7190  
Madison, WI 53707-7190

1/20/16  
Date