

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

TABITHA L. VANDEN PLAS, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

0004920

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 NUR 289

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

Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N.
1100 14th Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54304

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 Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., (dob February 5, 1969) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 221755-30, first issued on March 16, 2015 and current through February 18, 2018. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 1100 14th Avenue, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54304.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional nurse at a nursing home (Home), located in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

3. Resident A is prescribed metoprolol succinate 25 mg. This is an extended release medication that treats high blood pressure, chest pain and heart stress after a heart attack.
4. On February 9, 2016, Resident A's metoprolol succinate dosage was lowered to 12.5 mg at night. Resident A's care was closely followed by a cardiologist, with lab tests every 7-12 days.
5. On February 25, 2016, at 9:14 a.m. and 9:15 a.m., Respondent administered metoprolol tartrate 50 mg (immediate release), lisinopril 20 mg and hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg to Resident A. These medications lower blood pressure.
6. The medications Respondent administered to Resident A were to be administered to Resident B. Resident A and Resident B have the same first name.
7. Respondent failed to positively identify Resident A by asking him his name and date of birth prior to administering the medication.
8. Approximately thirty minutes later, Respondent observed another nurse enter Resident A's room to administer medication. Respondent informed this nurse that she had already administered Resident A's medication.
9. Respondent then realized that she had administered the wrong medication to Resident A. Respondent immediately assessed Resident A, whose blood pressure was 75/51 and pulse 45.
10. Resident A was alert and oriented, but complained of being dizzy. Respondent called the physician and Resident A was transported to the emergency room.
11. Resident A did not have a blood pressure when he arrived at the emergency room. Resident A was diagnosed with unintentional beta blocker overload. Emergency room personnel were able to re-establish a blood pressure.
12. Resident A suffered mental status changes and died at the hospital on February 28, 2016.
13. According to the medical examiner, Resident A likely died from renal failure, but the exact cause is pending.
14. 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, Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(a), by failing to perform nursing with reasonable skill and safety.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(c), by departing from or failing to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable nursing practice that may create unnecessary risk or danger to a patient's life, health, or safety.

4. As a result of the above conduct, Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1g)(b) and (d).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., is REPRIMANDED.
3. The professional nursing license issued to Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., (license number 221755-30) 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 four (4) hours of education on the topic of medication errors 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 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. The professional nursing license issued to Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., (license number 221755-30) and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, are LIMITED as follows:

- a. Respondent shall provide her nursing employer with a copy of this Order before engaging in any nursing employment. Respondent shall provide the Department Monitor with written acknowledgment from each nursing

employer that a copy of this Order has been received. Such acknowledgment shall be provided to the Department Monitor within fourteen (14) days of beginning new employment and/or within fourteen (14) days of the date of this Order for employment current as of the date of this Order.

- b. For a period of at least two (2) years while working at least half-time as a nurse, Respondent shall arrange for her nursing employer(s) to send to the Department Monitor quarterly reports, reporting the terms and conditions of Respondent's employment and evaluating her work performance.
- d. After two (2) years of working at least half-time as a nurse, Respondent may petition the board for the modification or termination of this limitation. The Board may grant or deny the petition, in its discretion, or may modify this Order as it sees fit.

5. 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.

6. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$175.00.

7. Any documents, reports, 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

8. 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 provide a copy of this Order to her nursing employer, fails to timely submit work reports, 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. 221755-30) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be **SUSPENDED**, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has provided a copy of this Order to her nursing employers, timely submitted work reports, complied with payment of costs and has submitted proof of successful completion of the ordered education.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by: Jenny A. New DNP, RN
A Member of the Board

9.8.16
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

TABITHA L. VANDEN PLAS, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

0004920

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 NUR 289

Respondent Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., 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.

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, 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.

Tabitha L. Vanden Plas RN
Tabitha L. Vanden Plas, R.N., Respondent
1100 14th Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54304
License no. 221755-30

7-2-16
Date

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

7/6/16
Date