

## 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  
LEANN M. WALKER, R.N., A.P.N.P., :  
RESPONDENT. :

**0005443**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 NUR 298

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

Leann M. Walker, R.N., A.P.N.P.  
2236 North 117<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-2116

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 Leann M. Walker, R.N., A.P.N.P., (dob June 29, 1968) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 128153-30, first issued on December 1, 1997 and current through February 28, 2018. Respondent is also certified as an advanced practice nurse prescriber, having certificate number 1320-33, first issued on January 8, 1999 and current through September 30, 2018.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 2236 North 117<sup>th</sup> Street, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226-2116.

3. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional nurse at a federal medical center (Center), located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

4. On February 16, 2013, Patient A was admitted to an outside hospital for evaluation of new onset seizures. During Patient A's admission, a head CT showed a hyper attenuating lesion in the right temporal lobe; an MRI of the brain revealed a right cranial mass, suggestive of meningioma; and a chest CT showed multiple pulmonary nodules and closer follow up was recommended. Patient A's his history was significant for past and current smoking.

5. On February 19, 2013, Patient A contacted the Center's telephone triage line to convey the results of the CT and MRI scans. A neurology consult was ordered.

6. On February 28, 2013, Patient A underwent neurology and neurosurgery consultations at the Center which led to a recommendation for tumor resection of the meningioma.

7. On April 12, 2013, a pre-operative anesthesia evaluation was performed at the Center. A chest x-ray showed suspected left lung pulmonary nodules. A chest CT was recommended for confirmation. The certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) noted that the outside hospital chest CT from February 16, 2013 showed the lesions, but no apparent work up had been ordered.

8. On April 16, 2013, Respondent instructed a nurse to schedule a follow-up chest CT for Patient A. Respondent's note stated the lesions were present on the outside chest CT from February 16, 2013 and no apparent work up had been ordered.

9. On May 2, 2013, Patient A underwent a right temporal craniotomy with resection of right temporal floor mass.

10. On May 17, 2013, the follow-up chest CT was performed and revealed a 1.1 cm lingular nodule which had increased in size compared to the February 16, 2013 scan. The radiologist's impression was "possible malignancy, follow-up needed."

11. On May 23, 2013, Patient A presented to Respondent in follow-up for his right temporal craniotomy. Respondent did not address the findings of the May 17, 2013 chest CT.

12. On October 29, 2013, Respondent saw Patient A for a routine checkup. Respondent did not discuss the May 17, 2013 chest CT results.

13. On February 18, 2014, Patient A was seen by the Respondent for a productive cough, ear pressure and headache. Respondent's assessment was bronchitis for which she prescribed antibiotics. Respondent did not discuss the results of the May 17, 2013 chest CT.

14. On April 2, 2014, Patient A was evaluated in the Center's emergency department for continued pulmonary complaints. A chest x-ray revealed a well marginated 2 x 2 cm mass density, lingula with prominent left hila. The finding noted "malignancy cannot be excluded." Patient A was advised to follow up with his primary care provider for a repeat CT.

15. On April 30, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A for a routine checkup. Respondent did not discuss the April 2, 2014 chest x-ray. Respondent ordered a chest CT.

16. On May 12, 2014, Patient A had a CT of the chest which revealed a large 4.6 cm speculated lingular mass with postobstructive changes, consistent with primary lung cancer and a new nonspecific 3 mm nodule in the upper right lobe.

17. On May 13, 2014, Respondent saw Patient A to discuss the findings of the May 12, 2014 chest CT. Respondent also discussed the changes seen in the scan from the prior year. Patient A was scheduled for a pulmonary consultation.

18. On May 15, 2014, Patient A had a pulmonary consult at which time pulmonary function tests, a PET scan, and a bronchoscopy were ordered.

19. On May 19, 2014, the PET scan revealed an enlarging lingular mass with ipsilateral hypermetabolic hilar and interlobar lymph nodes.

20. On May 21, 2014, Patient A underwent a bronchoscopy and biopsy. The results revealed an endobronchial lesion in the lingula obstructing 90% of the lumen. A rapid on site evaluation was positive for malignancy. Respondent ordered a radiation oncology consult.

21. On May 30, 2014 Patient A was seen by radiation oncology. A brain MRI was ordered as part of the staging workup.

22. On June 11, 2014, Patient A underwent a CT of the chest which revealed the left lingular segment had increased slightly in size and a 6 mm elongated pulmonary nodule in the anterior segment right upper lobe not previously identified.

23. On June 16, 2014, Patient A was seen by hematology/oncology and began his first cycle of chemotherapy. Patient A continued to be treated at the Center throughout 2014 and 2015.

24. On September 23, 2015, Patient A passed away at home.

25. 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, Leann M. Walker, R.N., A.P.N.P., violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(c)<sup>1</sup>, by departing from or failing to conform to

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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.

the minimal standards of acceptable nursing practice that may create unnecessary risk or danger to a patient's life, health, or safety. Actual injury to a patient need not be established.

3. As a result of the above violations, Leann M. Walker, R.N., A.P.N.P., 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 Leann M. Walker, R.N., A.P.N.P., is REPRIMANDED.
3. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Leann M. Walker, R.N., A.P.N.P., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$930.00.
4. Payment of costs shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and sent 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)

5. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's licenses (128153-30 and 1320-33), or Respondent's right to renew her license, 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 the Order. The Board may, in addition and/or in the alternative refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by: Sherry Lane (D)  
A Member of the Board

Date 9/14/17

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

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

LEANN M. WALKER, R.N., A.P.N.P.,  
RESPONDENT.

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:

STIPULATION

**0005443**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 NUR 298

Respondent Leann M. Walker, 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.

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.

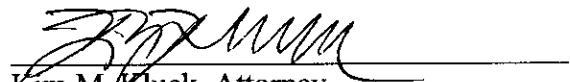
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes 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.

  
Leann M. Walker, R.N., A.P.N.P., Respondent  
2236 North 117<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-2166  
License Nos. 128153-30 and 1320-33

8/28/17  
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

9/1/17  
Date