

## 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

STEVEN J. KARCEWSKI, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

:  
:  
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
:  
:

**0005589**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 NUR 509

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

Steven J. Karczewski, R.N.  
10580 South Shepard Avenue  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

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 Steven J. Karczewski, R.N. (dob August 26, 1972) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 129831-30, first issued on July 7, 1998 and current through February 28, 2018. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 10580 South Shepard Avenue, Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional nurse at a hospital (the Hospital) as an agency nurse, located in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

3. On July 9, 2016, Respondent failed to follow Patient A's medication order for 50 mcg/hr fentanyl infusion and administered her fentanyl infusion at a rate of 175 mcg/hr. Patient A's pain assessments did not support the medication adjustment.

4. The Hospital investigated the above incident and reviewed Respondent's fentanyl administration and documentation.

5. The records review revealed that on June 21, 2016, Patient B's medication order for fentanyl was to initiate the infusion rate at 25-50 mcg/hour and could be increased by 25 mcg/hour every ten (10) minutes to a maximum rate of 175 mcg/hour.

6. Patient B's records showed that on multiple occasions on June 22, 2016, and June 24, 2016, Respondent administered fentanyl at a rate of 200 mcg/hour to Patient B without contacting a physician.

7. Records indicate that from July 7, 2016, through July 11, 2016, Patient A's medication order for fentanyl was 50 mcg/hour.

8. Patient A's records indicate that Respondent administered fentanyl at a rate higher than the physician's orders as follows:

- i. On July 7, 2016, at 11:45 a.m., Respondent administered fentanyl at a rate of 100 mcg/hour.
- ii. On July 8, 2016, at 1:41 a.m., 4:02 a.m., 7:23 p.m., and 10:01 p.m., Respondent administered fentanyl at a rate of 175 mcg/hour.
- iii. On July 8, 2016, at 6:13 a.m., Respondent administered fentanyl at a rate of 125 mcg/hour.
- iv. On July 8, 2016, at 6:36 a.m., Respondent administered fentanyl at a rate of 75 mcg/hour.
- v. On July 8, 2016, at 7:03 p.m., Respondent administered fentanyl at a rate of 100 mcg/hr.
- vi. On July 9, 2016, at 12:28 a.m., 3:06 a.m., and 5:09 a.m., Respondent administered fentanyl at a rate of 175 mcg/hour.
- vii. On July 9, 2016, at 7:26 a.m., Respondent administered fentanyl at a rate of 75 mcg/hour.

9. Based on their investigation, the Hospital terminated Respondent's agency contract.

10. On September 12, 2017, Respondent was interviewed by a Department investigator. He stated in the intensive care unit nurses had autonomy to adjust things as they go along. He also stated he would monitor the patient's heart rate and blood pressure.

11. Respondent stated the fentanyl administrations required dual sign offs and that each of the nurses who signed were aware of the rate of fentanyl he administered. Respondent stated that he spoke to a doctor prior to administering Patient A's higher rate of fentanyl.

12. 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, Steven J. Karczewski, R.N., violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(c), by unsafe practice or substandard care, including any of the following: 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.

3. As a result of the above conduct, Steven J. Karczewski, 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 Steven J. Karczewski, R.N., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The professional license issued to Steven J. Karczewski, R.N., (license number 129831-30) and his 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 his own expense, successfully complete four (4) hours of education on the topic of ethics of nursing practice and four (4) hours of education on the topic of medication errors, detections and prevention 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. 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, Steven J. Karczewski, R.N., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$530.00.

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. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (129831-30), or Respondent's right to renew his 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.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by:   
A Member of the Board

01-11-18  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

STEVEN J. KARCZEWSKI, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

**0005589**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 NUR 509

Respondent Steven J. Karczewski, 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.

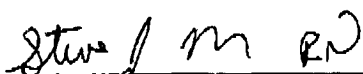
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division

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.

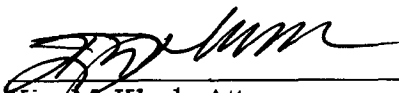
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes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

  
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Steven J. Karczewski, Respondent  
10580 South Shepard Avenue  
Oak Creek, WI 53154  
License no. 129831-30

12-11-17  
Date

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

12/11/17  
Date