

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



**NICOLE ALEXANDER-SCOTT, M.D., M.P.H.,
IN HER CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR OF THE
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
PETER RINTELS M.D.
Complaint Number C16-1258**

IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE ORDER

Now comes the Director of The Rhode Island Department of Health (hereafter "Director") and, pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 23-1-21, after initial investigation of the above referenced complaint pertaining to Peter Rintels M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") makes the following Findings and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACTS

1. Respondent is the attending physician for several patients who are prescribed opioids.
2. Respondent has prescribed large doses of opioids to these patients on numerous occasions.
3. Respondent maintained a medical record for his patients which did not reflect documentation of patient education regarding risks of: co-ingestion of alcohol, other psychoactive substances, tolerance, dependence, addiction, overdose or death.
4. Respondent did not document obtaining informed consent of patient for chronic opioids for patients with prior history of dependence.
5. Respondent did not document discussion of risk of relapse.
6. Respondent did not document the patient's responsibility to safeguard all medications and keep them in a secure location.
7. Respondent did not document educating patients regarding safe disposal for unused portions of medications.
8. Respondent prescribed doses of opioids that exceed 90 MME to several patients without documenting evidence of minimum safeguards to prevent diversion.
9. Respondent prescribed methadone to a patient for opioid dependence outside of an opioid treatment program.

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10. Respondent failed to enforce pain management agreements with patients.
11. Respondent is in violation of § RIGL 5-37-5.1 (19)
12. Respondent is in violation of the Rules and Regulations for Pain Management, Opioid Use and the Registration of Distributors of Controlled Substances [R21-28-CSD].

ORDER

1. Based on the foregoing the Director has determined that the Respondent's conduct as set forth herein constitutes an immediate threat to the health, welfare and safety of the public.
2. Effective upon service of this Immediate Compliance Order Respondent may continue to practice medicine in Rhode Island provided he immediately and continuously adheres to the following conditions:
 - a. Immediately cease accepting any new patients who are to be prescribed opioids unless there is a diagnosis of active cancer or palliative care is required.
 - b. Immediately cease prescribing opioids to a patient with sickle cell disease unless, a urine drug screen is completed immediately prior to prescription, a review of the Prescription Drug Monitoring program is conducted and if prior opioid prescriptions are found, a pill count must be conducted prior to a prescription being given.
 - c. Immediately cease prescribing methadone for opioid dependent patients.
 - d. Refer any patient receiving methadone for opioid dependence to an opioid treatment program.
 - e. Refer every patient on opioids with a MME greater than 90 must be referred to a pain management specialist within 30 days from this order.
 - f. Ensure a safe transition of care for any patients referred in accordance with items four (4) and five (5) above.
3. Failure to strictly comply with this Immediate Compliance Order without written consent from the Director and or the Board of Medical License and Discipline could result in disciplinary action including summary suspension of license.

Entered this 31st day of October, 2017.



Nicole Alexander-Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health
Rhode Island Department of Health
Cannon Building, Room 401
Three Capitol Hill

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Providence, RI 02903

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

A copy of this Immediate Compliance Order was served by the undersigned on the 15th day of November, 2017 to Peter Rintels M.D. via email to his attorney Mark Dolan Esq.

