

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
CHRISTOPHER WHITCOMB,  
RN57535**

**CASE NO. C18-1247**

**CONSENT ORDER FOR VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF LICENSE**

Pursuant to Section 14.1 of the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Practices and Procedures Before the Rhode Island Department of Health, the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education ("Board") and Christopher Whitcomb ("Respondent"), a registered nurse (RN) who is licensed by the Board, agree to dispose of the above-captioned matter by entering into this Consent Order. Respondent and the Board further agree that this Consent Order is enforceable as an Order of the Board.

Wishing to resolve this matter without an administrative hearing, Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and agrees to waive further procedural steps and any right to appeal this Consent Order. Respondent further agrees that the Board may make the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below. Respondent neither admits nor denies the Findings of Fact or the Conclusions of Law set forth below, and also neither admits nor denies that his authorized signature on this Consent Order constitutes an admission that he has violated any law or regulation. Respondent signs this Consent Order for settlement purpose only.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

1. Respondent holds a license to practice as a registered nurse, no. RN57535.
2. This matter was opened upon the Board's receipt of a complaint against Respondent's license, case no. C18-1247.

3. It is alleged that, on or about September 7, 2018, Respondent was observed utilizing an insulin needle instead of a lancet to obtain a blood sample from patients for the purpose of conducting a blood sugar test. After utilizing an insulin needle to obtain a blood sample, Respondent utilized the same needle to draw one dose of Lantus from a multi-dose vial and to draw one dose of Humalog from another multi-dose vial, thus contaminating the same two vials with blood from the insulin needle used on patients.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 3 above, if proved, would demonstrate that Respondent engaged in acts constituting violations of the Nurse Practice Act, Rhode Island Gen. Laws § 5-34-1 *et seq.*, providing grounds for disciplinary action against Respondent's license.

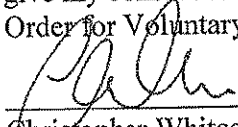
Whereas Respondent wishes and agrees to voluntarily enter into a Consent Order to surrender his license without making admissions and without prejudice to his ability to defend any action brought based on the above allegations, and whereas the Board finds the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety, and welfare, and for good cause shown,

#### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Respondent is hereby granted leave to voluntarily surrender his registered nurse license indefinitely, but for at least six (6) months from the September 7, 2018 effective date, and pending further order of the Board.
2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from practicing and/or holding himself out as a licensed registered nurse in the State of Rhode Island, pending further order of the Board.
3. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed an admission of liability on the part of Respondent, nor prejudice his ability to defend against any criminal charge.
4. Respondent shall not be eligible to seek reinstatement of his license for a period of six (6) months, starting from the effective date. In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of his Rhode Island registered nurse license after six (6) months from the effective date, Respondent shall:
  - a. Appear before the Board to discuss his readiness to reenter practice as a licensed registered nurse.

- b. Provide the Board with evidence that he is capable of discharging the functions of a registered nurse in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare.
  - c. Successful completion of twelve (12) continuing education credits pre-approved by the Board in the areas of ethics, patient rights, infectious disease control and medication administration.
5. The Board reserves the right to determine whether to reinstate Respondent's registered nurse license. In the event that Respondent's registered nurse license is reinstated by the Board, the Board reserves the right to place restrictions and/or limitations upon his license.
  6. This Consent Order for Voluntary Surrender is not effective unless it is accepted by both parties and it is ratified by the Board. If accepted by both parties and signed and ratified by the Board, this Consent Order for Voluntary Surrender shall become a permanent and public part of Respondent's record maintained by the Board.

I have read and understand this Consent Order for Voluntary Surrender, and I agree to abide by its terms. I understand that this Consent Order for Voluntary Surrender is not binding on me until it is accepted and ratified by the Board. I hereby give my consent to the Board to enter this Consent Order for Voluntary Surrender.

  
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Christopher Whitcomb, RN57535  
Signed this 10 day of December, 2018

**OFFICIAL DOCUMENT**  
**BOARD OF NURSE**  
**REGISTRATION**  
**& NURSING EDUCATION**

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING EDUCATION

By: Betty Sadawant  
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President, Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education  
Signed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018