

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF NURSING REGISTRATION
AND NURSING EDUCATION

v.

Complaint No.: 18-1247

CHRISTOPHER WHITCOMB
Nursing License No.: RN57535

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Christopher Whitcomb, RN57535 (Respondent), is licensed a registered nurse in Rhode Island pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws § 5-34-1 *et seq.*

FINDINGS OF FACT

On or about September 7, 2018, Respondent was employed as a registered nurse by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections at the Adult Correctional Institute, 39 Howard Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island.

On or about September 7, 2018, while treating Patient A, Respondent utilized an insulin needle instead of a lancet to obtain a blood sample from Patient A for the purpose of conducting a blood sugar test.

After utilizing an insulin needle to obtain a blood sample from Patient A, 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 that Respondent had used to obtain a blood sample from Patient A.

On or about September 7, 2018, while treating Patient B, Respondent utilized an insulin needle instead of a lancet to obtain a blood sample from Patient B for the purpose of conducting a blood sugar test. Patient B did not require Lantus or Humalog.

On or about September 7, 2018, while treating Patient C, Respondent utilized an insulin needle instead of a lancet to obtain a blood sample from Patient C for the purpose of conducting a blood sugar test.

After utilizing an insulin needle to obtain a blood sample from Patient C, Respondent utilized the same needle to draw one dose of Lantus from the same multi-dose vial used for Patient A, and to draw one dose of Humalog from the same multi-dose vial used for Patient A, thus injecting Patient C with medication that has been contaminated by the blood of Patient A, and contaminating the same two vials with blood from the insulin needle that Respondent had used to obtain a blood sample from Patient C.

On or about September 7, 2018, while treating Patient D, Respondent administrated one dose of Lantus from the same multi-dose vial used for Patients A and C, and one dose of Humalog from the same multi-dose vial used for Patients A and C, thus injecting Patient D with medication that has been contaminated by the blood of Patients A and C.

These actions constitute grounds for discipline pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-34-24.


Based upon the foregoing, the Director has determined that the continuation of the license of Respondent as a registered nurse constitutes an immediate danger to the public. Accordingly, pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws § 5-34-26, Respondent's license is summarily suspended and shall remain suspend pending further investigation and further Order of the Department of Health.

Respondent is entitled to an administrative hearing on this suspension pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws § 5-34-16. Respondent must contact the Board of Nursing at 401-222-1741 on or before Friday, October 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM to request a hearing. If Respondent contacts the Board of Nursing and requests a hearing, the hearing will take place on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Rhode Island Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908*. If Respondent fails to contact the Board of Nursing to request the hearing on or before Friday, October 12, 2018, he will be deemed to have waived his right to this hearing. at 10:00 AM

* Room 205

Ordered this 3rd day of October, 2018

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT
BOARD OF NURSE
REGISTRATION
& NURSING EDUCATION


ANA NOVAIS
Executive Director
Rhode Island Department of Health



CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on October 3, 2018, a true copy of this SUMMARY SUSPENSION was served by electronic mail to stoaf88@gmail.com and by regular mail to:

Christopher Whitcomb
45 Broncos Highway
Burrillville, RI 02839

and

Christopher Whitcomb
64 Waterman Way
Uxbridge, MA 01569

Amie E. Flynn

PROOF OF SERVICE

___ I hereby certify that on the date below I served a copy of this Summary Suspension on:

Christopher Whitcomb
45 Broncos Highway
Burrillville, RI 02839

___ I hereby certify that on the date below I served a copy of this Summary Suspension on:

___ I hereby certify that I was unable to make service after the following reasonable attempts:

SERVICE DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

SERVICE FEE \$ _____

Signature of SHERIFF or DEPUTY SHERIFF or CONSTABLE
