



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND LICENSING**

**IN THE MATTER OF: PATRICIA HENDRICKSON
LICENSEE NO.: RN65473
COMPLAINT ID #: C22-1226A**

**SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF NURSING LICENSE and HEARING NOTICE/
SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES**

I. Summary Suspension

Patricia Hendrickson (“Respondent”) has been licensed as a Nurse pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws § 5-34-1 *et seq.* since January 27, 2020. Complaint ID #C22-1226A (the “Complaint”) recently came before the Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Customer Services, Center for Professional Boards and Licensing (“RIDOH”)

This Summary Suspension is issued related to the Complaint and pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws § 5-34-26. After careful consideration and further investigation by RIDOH, the Director has determined that evidence exists indicating Respondent’s continuation in practice would constitute an immediate danger to the public. In particular, the Department has evidence of Respondent replacing a patient’s pain management medications (controlled substance) with visibly similar looking over the counter medications. Further, the Department has evidence that several controlled substances were unaccounted for while under Respondent’s care and duty.

Based on the foregoing and pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §5-34-26, the License is hereby **SUSPENDED until a final decision is issued by the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education after hearing.**

II. Notice of Hearing

The Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education will hold a hearing as to whether Respondent has violated the Nursing Practices Act (R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-34-1 *et seq.*) at the following location, date and time:

**Rhode Island Department of Administration
1 Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor, Conference Room D, Providence, R.I.
February 7, 2023 at 1:30 PM.**

The foregoing hearing is noticed in accordance with R. I. Gen. Laws § 5-34-26, which provides that the Board of Nursing must hold a hearing within 10 days after a license is summarily suspended by the Director on whether Respondent has violated the Nursing statute.

At this hearing, the Board has the power to take action against the Respondent's license, including but not limited to revocation and suspension pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws § 5-34-24. The below Notice/Specification of Charges more specifically outlines the Board of Nursing's authority over Respondent, as well as the allegations against Respondent.

III. Specification of Charges

A. STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. That Respondent is a registered nurse licensed to practice in the State of Rhode Island under License Number RN65473 (the "License").
2. That medication administration, including the administration of narcotics, is the responsibility of a registered nurse.
3. On duty nurses have a responsibility to properly document and administer narcotics in accordance with prescriber instructions.
4. On December 22, 2022, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) received a complaint alleging that the Respondent, who was working on the second floor at a long-term care facility, informed an oncoming shift nurse (staff B), that they had dropped a blister pack of 5mg Oxycodone on the floor. The Respondent further informed the oncoming shift nurse that a resident of the facility who resides on the first floor and utilizes a rolling walker for mobility, had come up to the second floor, and rode over the dropped blister pack of Oxycodone the dropped blister packet containing five (5) pills.
5. The Respondent, who was holding the broken pills in a medication cup instead of the blister pack, requested that Staff B waste the purported broken Oxycodone pills with them.
6. The Respondent stated to Staff B that they had thrown away the empty blister pack of medication. The Respondent then discarded the broken pieces of white colored pills into the sharps container.
7. The Director of Nursing Services (DNS) and Assistant Director of Nursing Services (ADNS) retrieved the broken white pills the Respondent placed in the sharps container and identified the pills as Claritin, not Oxycodone.
8. The alert and oriented resident who was identified by the Respondent as the person who rolled over the blister pack was interviewed by the DNS and ADNS and stated they had

not been on the second floor during the Respondent's shift.

9. The facility's review of the video footage from 12/21/2022 7PM-7AM failed to capture that the resident identified by the Respondent entering or exiting the elevator anytime during this shift.
10. In response to this incident, the facility conducted an internal audit of the Respondents narcotic administration which resulted in the DNS identifying multiple discrepancies in the administration and documentation of narcotics administered by the Respondent.
11. Review of the Narcotic Book sheets and the Licensed Nurse Medication Administration history (EMAR) of five (5) random residents between the dates of 12/14/2022- 12/22/2022 revealed the Respondent documented removing Oxycodone thirty (30) times on the Narcotic Book sheets and charted ten (10) Oxycodone administrations in the EMAR, resulting in twenty (20) removals of Oxycodone being unaccounted for.
12. Review of the ten (10) Oxycodone administrations in the EMAR noted above, four (4) EMAR documented times did not correlate with any of the Narcotic Book sheet documentation.
13. Review of the Narcotic Book sheets of five (5) residents between the dates of 12/14/2022- 12/22/2022 revealed the Respondent documented removing Oxycodone thirty (30) times on the Narcotic Book sheets. Of those 30 removals, seven (7) exceeded the dose ordered by the provider.

B. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF REGULATIONS AND STATUTES

1. The RIDOH Board of Nursing has the authority to impose discipline on this license in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §5-34-24 and Regulations for Licensing of Nurses and Standards for the Approval of Basic Nursing Education Programs at 216-RICR-40-05-3.
2. This Respondent violated the R.I. Gen. Laws §5-34-24(6)(ii), by taking part in unprofessional conduct as they willfully filed false reports or records in the practice of nursing.
3. This Respondent violated the R.I. Gen. Laws §5-34-24(6)(iii) by taking part in unprofessional conduct as they willfully omitted to file or record nursing records as required by state law. Specifically, records R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-28-3.12 requires that practitioners, including nurses, keep a record of any and all controlled substances that are administered.
4. This Respondent violated the R.I. Gen. Laws §5-34-24(6)(v) by taking part in unprofessional conduct as they displayed willful disregard of standards of nursing

practice and failure to maintain standards established by the nursing practice.

C. PROCEDURE AND NOTICE OF HEARING

A hearing will be held in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act and 216-RICR-10-05-4, §4.13, copies of which may be found at the RIDOH website (www.health.ri.gov) or by request to RIDOH. This is a contested hearing in which you have the right to appear personally or through counsel, or both; to produce witnesses and present evidence on your behalf; and to cross-examine witnesses. You also have the right to appeal any outcome directly to the RI Superior Court.

According to 216-RICR-10-05-4, §4.11, any person not initially a party to this matter who wishes to intervene or participate in this contested hearing shall file a written petition to intervene or participate with the Administrative Hearing Officer. The motion shall set forth clearly and concisely the facts from which the nature of the movant's alleged right or interest can be determined, the grounds for the proposed intervention and the position of the movant in this proceeding. Intervenors shall be persons who have a demonstrated injury in fact which will result from a challenged action or application and whose interests are not adequately represented by the other parties in this hearing. Any person permitted to intervene shall be a full party. Every petition to intervene shall be treated in the alternative as a petition to participate fully.

The date of this hearing will be February 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the Rhode Island Department of Administration – 1 Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor, Conference Room D, Providence R.I. (across from the State Capitol building). If you or your counsel fail to appear at this hearing, the hearing will proceed on any evidence and testimony presented. At this hearing the Board will make a determination as to whether Respondent has violated the law and may take action including, but is not limited to, suspension or revocation of license pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-34-1 et seq.

For questions on this matter please contact Lynda D'Alessio Board Manager for the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education at Lynda.DAlessio@health.ri.gov or (401) 222-1741.

Entered this 30th day of January 2023



SEEMA DIXIT
Deputy Director of Health
Rhode Island Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 401
Providence, RI 02908-5097

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 30th day, in the month of January, 2023 I have mailed this Summary Suspension by **first class regular mail, by certified mail, and by email** to Patricia Hendrickson at the below addresses.

949 Hope Street
Bristol, RI 02809

26 Dean Ave. Apt 2
Newport, RI 02840

THETRICIAHENDRICKSON@GMAIL.COM

I further hereby certify that I have mailed a true and accurate copy of this Summary Suspension, by email on this 30th day of January, 2023 to:

Catherine Warren
RI Department of Administration
Division of Legal Services
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908
catherine.warren@doa.ri.gov


