



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Arne W. Owens
Director

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233-1463

www.dhp.virginia.gov
PHONE (804) 367-4400

Virginia Board of Nursing
Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE
Executive Director

Board of Nursing (804) 367-4515
www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing

June 7, 2024

Melanie Dorion, APRN
107 Towler Place
Charlottesville, VA 22902

RE: Virginia License No.: 0024171240

Dear Ms. Dorion:

It is a pleasure to inform you that you have successfully complied with the terms required by the Order entered by the Committee of the Joint Boards of Board of Nursing and Medicine on March 9, 2023, affecting your license. No further action is required of you concerning this matter.

The Board recommends that you maintain a copy of this letter for your records, and for future employers.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §54.1-2400.2, this letter shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record and be made available to the public for inspection and copying upon request.

We wish you well in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Hills, DNP, RN, WHNP
Deputy Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

RH/tdj

cc: Susan Brooks, Department of Health Professions
Tonya James, Compliance Case Manager
Nathan Kottkamp, Attorney



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Arne W. Owens
Director

Department of Health Professions

Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

www.dhp.virginia.gov
PHONE (804) 367-4400

Virginia Board of Nursing
Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE
Executive Director

Board of Nursing (804) 367-4515
www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Nursing

April 19, 2023

RE: Melanie Dorion, L.N.P.
License Number: 0024-171240
Case Number 213563

Following a formal administrative hearing, on March 9, 2023, a panel of the Committee of Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine ("the Committee") issued an Order to reprimand Melanie Dorion, L.N.P and place her license on indefinite probation for no less than one (1) year, subject to several terms and conditions.

On March 24, 2023, Ms. Dorion, by counsel, filed a Petition for Reconsideration pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-4023.1 seeking reconsideration of the sanction imposed by the Committee.

On April 13, 2023, a quorum of the Committee met to consider the request via teleconference pursuant to Va. Code § 54.1-2400(13). The Committee decided the following:

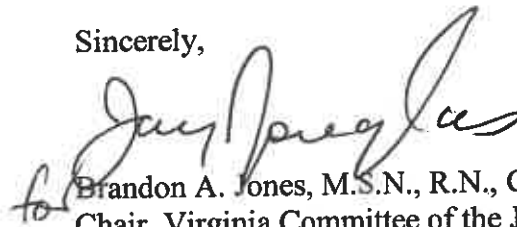
- 1) The Committee DENIES the request to modify terms 2(a), (b) and (c) of the Order because the terms are remedial in nature, not intended to be punitive, and are imposed to protect the public.
- 2) The Committee MODIFIES term 2(d) of the Order as follows:

Ms. Dorion shall provide written proof satisfactory to the Committee of the Joint Boards of successful completion of Committee-approved courses of at least 16 contact hours in the subjects of patient boundaries and ethics. Said course(s) shall be completed through interactive sessions (i.e., no home study or journal courses). The course(s) shall be approved in advance of registration by the Executive Director of the Board of Nursing. Requests for approval must be received at least 15 business days prior to the course date. Continuing education obtained through compliance with this term shall not be used toward licensure renewal.

- 3) The Committee DENIES the request to modify term 2(e) of the Order, as it is necessary given the Committee's Findings of Fact and provides the option of attending a virtual course.
- 4) The Committee DENIES Ms. Dorion's request that the Committee-approved courses be counted towards her regular education requirement, as they were imposed by the Committee to supplement her regular education requirements.

Pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-4023.1(D), this decision shall not constitute a separate case decision and shall not be subject to judicial review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brandon A. Jones".

Brandon A. Jones, M.S.N., R.N., C.E.N., N.E.A.-B.C.
Chair, Virginia Committee of the Joint Boards
of Nursing and Medicine

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT BOARDS OF NURSING AND MEDICINE

IN RE: MELANIE DORION, L.N.P.
License Number: 0024-171240
Case Number: 213563

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11), a panel of the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine (“Committee of the Joint Boards”) held a formal administrative hearing on February 22, 2023, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Melanie Dorion, L.N.P., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of nurse practitioners in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Melanie Dorion, L.N.P., appeared at this proceeding and was represented by Nathan Kottkamp, Esquire.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Melanie Dorion, L.N.P., was issued License Number 0024-171240 to practice as a nurse practitioner in the category of adult/geriatric care, on October 1, 2013, which is scheduled to expire on November 30, 2024. At all times relevant to the findings contained herein, said license was current and active.
2. During the course of her practice at Sana Vi Health, aka Be Vital Health Center and Vitality IV Lounge, Charlottesville, Virginia:

a. By her own admission, from May 2019 to April 2021, Ms. Dorion engaged in a relationship of a sexual nature with Patient A while providing medical treatment to him.

b. Ms. Dorion failed to maintain timely, accurate, and complete medical records on Patient A. In addition to the testosterone and cortisol supplementation referenced below, Ms. Dorion provided extensive pulmonary treatment to Patient A and prescribed numerous medications to him, including but not limited to liposomal amphotericin B and aerosolized Fluconazole, but she failed to document any of this treatment in his medical records.

c. From May 2019 to April 2021, Ms. Dorion provided substandard treatment to Patient A, including prescribing medications without any medical therapeutic benefit, as evidenced by the following:

i) On December 23 and 24, 2019, Ms. Dorion collected urine specimens from Patient A and tested for levels of testosterone, which were reported as being within normal range. On December 28, 2020, February 16 and May 27, 2021, Ms. Dorion still wrote prescriptions for testosterone 1000mg/10ml injections, quantity 20, for a 70 day supply, with refills, and further, on July 27, September 24 and November 6, 2020, she wrote prescriptions for testosterone topical cream. Ms. Dorion failed to document Patient A's diagnosis and failed to give any reason for prescribing said medication, did not consult with her collaborating physician, or refer Patient A to a specialist.

ii) On December 23 and 24, 2019, Ms. Dorion collected urine specimens from Patient A and tested for levels of cortisol, which reported as being within normal range. From July 31, 2020 to June 16, 2021, Ms. Dorion still wrote Patient A prescriptions for hydrocortisone 5mg, quantity 120 tablets, with instructions to take two tablets in the morning, one tablet at lunch and one tablet at dinner, which is the recommended dose for renal insufficiency. Ms. Dorion failed to document

Patient A's diagnosis and failed to give a reason for prescribing said medication, did not consult with her collaborating physician or refer Patient A to a specialist.

iii) Laboratory results contained in Patient A's medical records dated September 23, 2019 and December 3, 2020, indicate elevated liver function tests; however, Ms. Dorion failed to address these results. Further, the endocrinologist who subsequently saw Patient A on July 29, 2021, opined that use of glucocorticoids when not physiologically needed, as occurred in Ms. Dorion's treatment of Patient A, can suppress the HPA axis causing bone loss, glucose intolerance and suppression of the immune response.

3. Ms. Dorion lacked insight into how her boundary violations impacted patient care. She could not verbalize the impact of boundary violations, and how to prevent such violations in the future. Ms. Dorion testified that her relationship with Patient A did not impact her clinical judgement. However, in a written response to questions from the Department of Health Professions' Senior Investigator, Ms. Dorion stated she prescribed Cortef to Patient A sooner than what she would have done under different circumstances. She wrote that she provided the prescription under duress and concern for her safety. Ms. Dorion did not consult with her supervising physician regarding Patient A.

4. Ms. Dorion admitted that she should not have prescribed medications to a person she had a relationship with, and her documentation with Patient A was lacking. Ms. Dorion testified that Patient A excessively drank alcohol, but did not document it in Patient A's medical record and testified she did not need to do so. Ms. Dorion further testified that she did not document a patient's condition unless she treated the condition.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 2(a) constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-2915(A)(3), (12), (13), (16), (17), (18) and (19) and 18 VAC 90-30-220(4) of the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners.

2. Finding of Fact No. 2(b) constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-2915(A)(3), (12), (13), (16), (17), (18) and 18 VAC 90-30-220(4) of the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners and 18 VAC 85-20-26(C) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Medicine.

3. Finding of Fact No. 2(c) constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-2915(A)(3), (8), (12), (13), (16), (17) and (18) and 54.1-3303(G) [now found at Va. Code § 54.1-3303(E), effective July 1, 2020] and 18 VAC 90-30-220(4) and (6) of the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Nursing hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Melanie Dorion, L.N.P., is REPRIMANDED.

2. Ms. Dorion is placed on INDEFINITE PROBATION for a period of not less than one year subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. Ms. Dorion shall undergo random audits of her patient charts by a physician approved by the Committee of the Joint Boards. The audits shall include a minimum of ten charts per quarter and the reviewing physician shall submit quarterly reports to the Committee of the Joint Boards regarding Ms. Dorion's recordkeeping. The reports shall be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Committee of the Joint Boards, with the first report due no later than 60 days from entry of this Order and subsequent reports due the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until

Ms. Dorion and the physician specified above are notified, in writing, that the reporting requirement is ended.

b. Ms. Dorion shall ensure that her collaborating physician shall provide quarterly reports to the Committee of the Joint Boards regarding her clinical judgment, clinical performance, medication administration and overall performance. The reports shall be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Committee, with the first report due no later than 60 days from entry of this Order and subsequent reports due the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until Ms. Dorion and the physician specified above are notified, in writing, that the reporting requirement is ended.

c. Ms. Dorion shall submit “Self Reports” which include a current address, telephone number, email address, and verification of any and all current practice employment. These reports shall also include any changes in practice employment status. Self Reports must be submitted whether Ms. Dorion has current practice employment or not. The reports shall be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Committee, with the first report due no later than 60 days from the date of entry of the Order and subsequent reports due the last day of the March, June, September, and December until Ms. Dorion is notified, in writing, that the reporting requirement is ended. Ms. Dorion shall notify the Committee within ten days, in writing, of any changes in the location of her practice, additional practice locations, or change in address, telephone number, or e-mail address.

d. Ms. Dorion shall provide written proof satisfactory to the Committee of the Joint Boards of successful completion of Committee-approved courses of at least 25 contact hours in the subjects of patient boundaries and ethics. Said course(s) shall be completed through face-to-face, interactive sessions (i.e., no home study, journal, or Internet courses). The course(s) shall be approved in advance of registration by the Executive Director of the Board of Nursing. Requests for approval

must be received at least 15 business days prior to the course date. Continuing education obtained through compliance with this term shall not be used toward licensure renewal.

e. Ms. Dorion shall provide written proof satisfactory to the Committee of the Joint Boards of successful completion of Committee-approved courses of at least three contact hours in the subject of documentation. Said course shall be completed either virtually, in person, or via a simulated experience and shall include successful completion of a knowledge assessment. The course(s) shall be approved in advance of registration by the Executive Director of the Board of Nursing. Requests for approval must be received at least 15 business days prior to the course date. Continuing education obtained through compliance with this term shall not be used toward licensure renewal.

2. Ms. Dorion shall bear any costs associated with the terms and conditions of this Order.

3. Any violation of the foregoing terms and conditions of this Order or any statute or regulation governing the practice of nurse practitioners shall constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.

4. Failure to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order within five years of the date of entry of the Order may be reason for revoking or suspending the license of Ms. Dorion and an administrative proceeding shall be held to determine whether to impose such action.

5. This Order shall remain in effect until the Board has notified Ms. Dorion in writing that she is released from probation.

FOR THE COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT BOARDS

Rolind Hills
for Jay Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED AND MAILED ON: March 9, 2023

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.

Certified True Copy

By *A. Moore*
Virginia Board of Nursing

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE JOINTS BOARDS OF NURSING AND MEDICINE

IN RE: MELANIE DORION, L.N.P.
License Number: 0024-171240
Issue Date: October 1, 2013
Expiration Date: November 30, 2024
Case Number: 213563

**NOTICE OF FORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
AND STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

You are hereby notified that a formal hearing has been scheduled before the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine (“Committee of the Joint Boards”) regarding your license to practice as a nurse practitioner in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

TYPE OF PROCEEDING:	This is a formal administrative hearing before the Committee of the Joint Boards.
DATE AND TIME:	February 22, 2023 11:00 A.M.
PLACE:	Virginia Department of Health Professions Perimeter Center - 9960 Mayland Drive 2 nd Floor - Virginia Conference Center Henrico, Virginia 23233

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION:

1. This formal hearing is being held pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11). This proceeding will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3700.

2. At the conclusion of the proceeding, the Committee of the Joint Boards is authorized to take any of the following actions:

- Dismiss the case and exonerate you;
- Reprimand you;
- Require you to pay a monetary penalty;
- Place you on probation and/or under terms and conditions;
- Suspend your license; or
- Revoke your license.

RESPONDENT'S LEGAL RIGHTS:

You have the following rights:

- The right to the information on which the Committee of the Joint Boards will rely in making its decision;
- The right to be represented by counsel at this proceeding;
- The right to subpoena witnesses and/or documents; and
- The right to present relevant evidence on your behalf.

ABSENCE OF RESPONDENT AND RESPONDENT'S COUNSEL:

If you and/or your legal counsel do not appear at the formal hearing, the Committee of the Joint Boards may proceed to hear this matter in your absence and may take any of the actions outlined above.

COMMONWEALTH'S EXHIBITS:

- The Commonwealth's exhibits serve as the basis for the allegations against you. The Committee of the Joint Boards will consider these exhibits at the formal hearing.
- These exhibits have been sent to you via certified mail/UPS. *You may be required to sign for these exhibits at the post office.*
- Bring this Notice and the Commonwealth's exhibits with you to the formal hearing.

FILING DEADLINES:

- If you want to submit evidence on your behalf or use expert witnesses, deadlines are below.
- Deadlines for filing any motions or objections to exhibits or expert witness lists are listed below.
- Submit all exhibits, motions, or objections to Robin Hills at Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- Include the case number in all correspondence.

I. Exhibit Submission	DEADLINE DATE
Respondent's Submission of Documents for Evidence (including expert witness reports) (Submit 15 copies)	December 29, 2022
Commonwealth's Deadline to Respond to Respondent's Submission	January 4, 2023
Respondent's Deadline to Respond to Commonwealth's Objections	January 9, 2023

NOTE: Any documentation or evidence that you previously submitted for an informal conference that is not already part of the Commonwealth's evidence must be resubmitted as an exhibit if you want the Committee of the Joint Boards to consider it at the formal administrative hearing.

II. Objections to Commonwealth's Exhibits	DEADLINE DATE
Respondent's Objections to Commonwealth's Exhibits	January 4, 2023
Commonwealth's Response to Respondent's Objections	January 9, 2023

NOTE: If no objections have been received by December 29, 2022, the exhibits will be distributed to the Board members for their review.

III. Motions/Continuance Requests	DEADLINE DATE
Respondent's Motions	December 29, 2022
Commonwealth's Response to Motions	January 4, 2023

IV. Expert Witness Identification	DEADLINE DATE
Respondent's Expert Witnesses	December 29, 2022
Commonwealth's Deadline to Object to Expert Witnesses	January 4, 2023

NOTE: If supplementation of expert witness lists is necessary, parties should transmit such supplement to the Committee of the Joint Boards at least five (5) days in advance of the scheduled administrative proceeding. Objections to expert witnesses submitted on a supplemental list may be made prior to or at the hearing for consideration by the Panel Chair.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

The Committee of the Joint Boards alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Melanie Dorion, L.N.P., was licensed to practice as a nurse practitioner in the category of adult/geriatric care, in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. During the course of her practice at Sana Vi Health, aka Be Vital Health Center and Vitality IV Lounge, Charlottesville, Virginia:
 - a. Respondent violated Virginia Code §§ 54.1-2915(A)(3), (12), (13), (16), (17), (18) and (19) and 18 VAC 90-30-220(4) of the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners in that by her own admission, from in or about May 2019 to April 2021, Respondent engaged in a relationship of a sexual nature with Patient A while providing medical treatment to him.
 - b. Respondent violated Virginia Code §§ 54.1-2915(A)(3), (12), (13), (16), (17), (18) and 18 VAC 90-30-220(4) of the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners and 18 VAC 85-20-26(C) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Medicine in that she failed to maintain timely, accurate, and complete medical records on Patient A. In addition to the testosterone and cortisol supplementation referenced below, Respondent provided extensive pulmonary treatment to Patient A and prescribed numerous medications to him, including but not limited to liposomal amphotericin B and aerosolized Fluconazole, but she failed to document any of this treatment in his medical records.
 - c. Respondent violated Virginia Code §§ 54.1-2915(A)(3), (8), (12), (13), (16), (17) and (18) and 54.1-3303(G) [now found at Va. Code § 54.1-3303(E), effective July 1, 2020] and 18 VAC 90-30-220(4) and (6) of the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners in that, from in or about May 2019 to April 2021, Respondent provided substandard treatment to Patient A, including prescribing medications without any medical therapeutic benefit, as evidenced by the following:

i) On or about December 23 and 24, 2019, Respondent collected urine specimens from Patient A and tested for levels of testosterone, which were reported as being within normal range. Contrary to said results, on or about December 28, 2020, February 16 and May 27, 2021, Respondent still wrote prescriptions for testosterone 1000mg/10ml injections, quantity 20, for a 70 day supply, with refills, and further, on or about July 27, September 24 and November 6, 2020, she wrote prescriptions for testosterone topical cream. Respondent failed to document Patient A's diagnosis and failed to give any reason for prescribing said medication, did not consult with her collaborating physician, or refer Patient A to a specialist.

ii) On or about December 23 and 24, 2019, Respondent collected urine specimens from Patient A and tested for levels of cortisol, which reported as being within normal range. Contrary to said results, from on or about July 31, 2020 to June 16, 2021, Respondent still wrote Patient A prescriptions for hydrocortisone 5mg, quantity 120 tablets, with instructions to take two tablets in the morning, one tablet at lunch and one tablet at dinner, which is the recommended dose for renal insufficiency. Respondent failed to document Patient A's diagnosis and failed to give a reason for prescribing said medication, did not consult with her collaborating physician or refer Patient A to a specialist.

iii) Laboratory results contained in Patient A's medical records dated September 23, 2019 and December 3, 2020, indicate elevated liver function tests; however, Respondent failed to address these results. Further, the endocrinologist who subsequently saw Patient A on July 29, 2021, opined that use of glucocorticoids when not physiologically needed, as occurred in Respondent's treatment of Patient A, can suppress the HPA axis causing bone loss, glucose intolerance and suppression of the immune response.

See Confidential Attachment for the name of the patient referenced above.

Case Number 213563

December 19, 2022

Page 6 of 7

Rubin L. Hills

for Jay Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

December 9, 2022

Date