

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

In Re: Pamela Cipriano, A.P.R.N.

Petition No. 2014-710

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Pamela Cipriano (hereinafter "respondent") of Thomaston, Connecticut has been issued license number 004854 to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 378, as amended.

WHEREAS, the Department alleges that:

1. On one or more occasions during the course of 2013 through 2014, respondent inappropriately wrote prescriptions for controlled substances on Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (hereinafter "Hospital") prescription sheets for non-Hospital patients.
2. On one or more occasions during the course of 2013 and/or 2014, respondent failed to appropriately maintain treatment and/or controlled substance prescription records for several patients, including members of her family.
3. In or about August 2013, respondent failed to appropriately maintain treatment records for patient #1 in the treatment of a malleolar fracture.
4. In March 2014 respondent's care for patient #2 failed to meet the standard of care when she she inappropriately prescribed opiate and/or benzodiazepine medications for an individual outside of an established patient-healthcare provider relationship.
5. The above described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §20-99(b) including, but not limited to, §§20-99(b)(2).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest the above admitted allegations at a hearing in front of the Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter "the

Board"). Respondent further agrees that this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if ordered after a full hearing pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§19a-9, 19a-10, and 20-99(a).

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §19a-17 and §20-99(a), respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives her right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent shall comply with all federal and state statutes and regulations applicable to her profession.
3. Respondent's license number 004854 to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Connecticut is hereby reprimanded.
4. Respondent's license is permanently restricted in that she shall not prescribe any medication for herself, members of her family, or her friends.
5. Respondent's license number 004854 to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Connecticut is hereby placed on probation for one (1) year, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - A. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to all current and future employers during the period of probation.
 - B. Within the first six months of probation, respondent shall attend and successfully complete coursework in prescribing practices and documentation standards, pre-approved by the Department. Within fourteen (14) days of the completion of such courses, respondent shall provide the Department with proof, to the Department's satisfaction, of the successful completion of such courses.
 - C. Respondent shall not be employed as a nurse for a personnel provider service, assisted living services agency, homemaker-home health aide agency, or home health care agency,

and shall not be self-employed as a nurse for the period of her probation. Additionally, respondent shall only practice nursing in an office and practice setting that physically includes other licensed advanced practice registered nurses and/or physicians on-site while she is practicing at said office and practice setting.

- D. Respondent shall obtain at her own expense, the services of a supervisor, pre-approved by the Department (hereinafter "supervisor"), to conduct a quarterly random review of twenty percent (20%) or twenty (20) of respondent's patient records, whichever is the larger number. In the event respondent has twenty (20) or fewer patients, the supervisor shall review all of respondent's patient records.
- (1) Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to her supervisor.
Respondent's supervisor shall furnish written confirmation to the Department of his or her engagement in that capacity and receipt of a copy of this Consent Order within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Consent Order.
 - (2) Respondent's supervisor shall conduct such review and meet with her not less than once every three (3) months during the probationary period.
 - (3) The supervisor shall have the right to monitor respondent's practice by any other reasonable means which he or she deems appropriate. Respondent shall fully cooperate with the supervisor in providing such monitoring.
 - (4) Respondent shall be responsible for providing quarterly written supervisor reports directly to the Department. Such supervisor's reports shall include documentation of dates and duration of meetings with respondent, number and a general description of the patient records and patient medication orders and prescriptions reviewed,

additional monitoring techniques utilized, and statement that respondent is practicing with reasonable skill and safety.

F. All correspondence and reports shall be addressed to:

Lavita Sookram, RN
Practitioner Compliance and Monitoring Unit
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12HSR
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

6. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Order without prior written approval by the Board shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek revocation of respondent's nursing license following notice and an opportunity to be heard.
7. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Board shall not be a waiver or preclude the Board's right to take action at a later time. The Board shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
8. Legal notice of any action shall be deemed sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section of the Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch of the Department.
9. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the month in which this Consent Order is approved and accepted by the Board.
10. Respondent understands this Consent Order is a public record.
11. Respondent understands this Consent Order shall be deemed as evidence of the above admitted violations in any proceeding before the Board in which (1) her compliance with this same Consent Order is at issue, or (2) her compliance with Connecticut General Statutes §20-99(b), as amended, is at issue. Further, respondent understands that any discipline imposed by this Consent Order shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

12. In the event respondent violates a term of this Consent Order, respondent agrees immediately to refrain from practicing as a registered nurse, upon request by the Department, with notice to the Board, for a period not to exceed 45 days. During that time period, respondent further agrees to cooperate with the Department in its investigation of the violation and to submit to and complete a medical, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, if requested to do so by the Department, and that the results of the evaluation shall be submitted directly to the Department. Respondent further agrees that failure to cooperate with the Department in its investigation during said 45 day period shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license. In any such summary action, respondent stipulates that failure to cooperate with the Department's investigation shall be considered by the Board and shall be given due weight by the Board in determining whether respondent's conduct constitutes a clear and immediate danger as required pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§4-182(c) and 19a-17(c). The Department and respondent understand that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether a summary suspension is ordered.
13. In the event respondent is not employed as a nurse for periods of thirty (30) consecutive days or longer, respondent shall notify the Department in writing. Such periods of times shall not be counted in reducing the probationary period covered by this Consent Order and such terms shall be held in abeyance. During such time period, respondent shall not be responsible for complying with the terms of probation of this Consent Order. In the event respondent resumes the practice of nursing, respondent shall provide the Department with thirty (30) days prior written notice. Respondent shall not return to the practice of nursing without written pre-approval from the Department. Respondent agrees that the Department, in its complete discretion, may require additional documentation from respondent and/or require respondent to satisfy other conditions or

terms as a condition precedent to respondent's return to practice. Respondent understands that any return to the practice of nursing without pre-approval from the Department shall constitute a violation of this Consent Order and may subject the respondent to further disciplinary action.

14. If, during the period of probation, respondent practices nursing outside Connecticut, she shall provide written notice to the Department concerning such employment. During such time period, respondent shall not be responsible for complying with the terms of probation of this Consent Order, and such time period shall not be counted in reducing the probationary period covered by this Consent Order. Respondent may comply with the terms of probation while practicing outside Connecticut if pre-approved by the Department. In the event respondent intends to return to the practice of nursing in Connecticut, respondent shall provide the Department with thirty (30) days prior written notice and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions contained in paragraph 5 above.
15. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, said violation may also constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license before the Board.
16. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Respondent understands that this Consent Order shall not be subject to modification as a result of any claim that the terms contained herein may result in action by third parties, including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities and/or credentialing or licensure boards. Respondent assumes all responsibility for assessing such actions prior to the execution of this document. Further, this Consent Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes, Chapters 54 and 368a

provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any other rights that respondent may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.

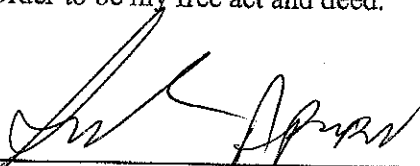
17. Respondent permits a representative of the Department to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Board. The Department and respondent understand that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether an executed Consent Order is approved or accepted. Respondent hereby waives any claim of error that could be raised that is related to or arises during the course of the Board's discussions regarding whether to approve or reject this Consent Order and/or a Board member's participation during this process, through the Board member's review or comments, including but not limited to bias or reliance on evidence outside the administrative record if this matter proceeds to a hearing on a statement of charges resulting in a proposed decision and/or final decision by the Board.
18. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement, which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
19. Respondent has consulted her attorney prior to signing this document.
20. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the State's Attorney's Office where the allegation occurred or Bureau Chief of the applicable unit in the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the pending administrative license disciplinary petition only, and is not intended to affect any civil or criminal liability or defense.
21. This Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties with respect to this case. All previous communications or agreements regarding the subject matter of this consent order,

whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof.

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I, Pamela Cipriano, have read the above Consent Order, and I agree to the terms set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.




Pamela Cipriano, A.P.R.N.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of June, 2015.



Commissioner Superior Court *Donna M Winn*
my commission expires January 31, 2018

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 9th day of July, 2015, it is hereby accepted.



~~Kathleen Boulware, RN, Public Health Services Manager~~
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch
Christian D. Androsen, Section Chief.

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing on the 5th day of August, 2015, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

BY: Patricia C Bonifant D.N.S.
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing