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Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 574854 §
issued to GERALDINE A. HARRINGTON § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of GERALDINE A. HARRINGTON, Registered Nurse License Number 574854, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(13) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on July 15, 2014, subject to ratification by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Pima Community College, Tucson, Arizona on May 1, 1991. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 30, 1991.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1991-1993	Registered Nurse	Seton Medical Center Austin, Texas
1991-1993	Registered Nurse	Georgetown Hospital Georgetown, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

1991-1993	Registered Nurse	Charter Hospital of Austin Austin, Texas
1993-2000	Registered Nurse	Johns Community Hospital Taylor, Texas
2000-2/2001	Unknown	
3/2001-9/2001	Registered Nurse	Heartland Health Care Austin, Texas
10/2001-2002	Registered Nurse	Taylor Care Center Taylor, Texas
2003-2004	Registered Nurse	Georgetown Hospital Georgetown, Texas
1/2004-10/2011	Registered Nurse	Coryell Memorial Healthcare System Gatesville, Texas
11/2011-Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Coryell Memorial Healthcare System, Gatesville, Texas, and had been in this position for six (6) years and nine (9) months.
7. On or about November 28, 2010, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Coryell Memorial Healthcare System, Gatesville, Texas, Respondent failed to administer Rocephin Intravenous Piggy Back (IVPB) to Patient Medical Record Number 332981, at the scheduled time, which caused the medication timing to be adjusted. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that delaying the administration of antibiotic medications deprived the patient the benefit of medical interventions and increased the risk of infection.
8. On or about August 29, 2011, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Coryell Memorial Healthcare System, Gatesville, Texas, Respondent failed to ensure that a laboratory test for Prothrombin Time/Partial Thromboplastin Time (PT/PTT) was completed for Patient Medical Record Number 73883. The PT/PTT test is used to determine the clotting tendency of blood and results in an international normalized ratio (INR), or the time it takes blood to clot. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that the patient received Coumadin, a blood thinning medication, without the benefit of a known INR, which could lead to excessive and/or unexpected bleeding.
9. On or about September 3, 2011, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Coryell Memorial Healthcare System, Gatesville, Texas, Respondent administered Norco 5/500 to

Patient Medical Record Number 338873, when Vicodin 10/325 was ordered. Respondent's conduct resulted in the patient receiving a lower dose of Hydrocodone and a higher does of Tylenol than was ordered which exposed the patient to inadequate pain control.

10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7), through Nine (9), Respondent states the patient's antibiotic was pulled to start at around 1630, as ordered, but the patient had an episode of tachycardia which resulted in the physician being called. Following this the patient needed back up from the bedside commode which required the intravenous (IV) infusion to be discontinued and the IV pump alarm kept going off due to positional changes. Respondent states the IV site had to be changed by the next shift in order to finish the infusion. In regard to the PT/PTT laboratory test, Respondent states she did not enter the next day's laboratory order into the computer and feels the night shift should have caught her error/omission. Regarding the narcotic administration, Respondent states she administered Vicodin per the unit as needed sheet of medications nurses can administer at their own discretion without first getting a physician order and she in error marked on the patient's PRN sheet that she had given Norco thinking it was an order for Vicodin.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation(s) of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(1)(D)&(3)(A) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B)&(4).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 574854, heretofore issued to GERALDINE A HARRINGTON, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS, and RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas shall be placed in INACTIVE status.

IT IS ALSO FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, should RESPONDENT decide in the future to reactivate his/her license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, RESPONDENT SHALL be required to satisfy all then existing requirements for reactivation and RESPONDENT'S reactivated license(s) SHALL BE subject to, at a minimum, remedial education courses, work restrictions, supervised practice, and employer reporting, which would have been requirements of this Order had Respondent not chosen to inactivate her nursing license(s).

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, a copy will be mailed to me. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance. I further understand that, should I decide in the future to reactivate my license(s), I will be required to satisfy, at a minimum, the additional requirements that would have been part of this Order had the license(s) not been placed in inactive status, as stated herein, as well as all then existing requirements for reactivation.

Signed this 7th day of August, 2014.

Geraldine A. Harrington RN
GERALDINE A. HARRINGTON, RESPONDENT

Signed for health reasons, for testimony incorrect statements

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of _____

Approved as to form and substance.

Marc Meyer
Marc Meyer, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 8th day of August, 2014.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 7th day of August, 2014, by GERALDINE A HARRINGTON, Registered Nurse License Number 574854, and said Order is final.

Effective this 12th day of November, 2014.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas".

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director on behalf
of said Board