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Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of	§	AGREED ORDER
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License	§	
Number 132909 with Prescription	§	
Authorization Number 22233	§	
& Registered Nurse License Number 638589	§	
issued to KAREN INZURRIAGA	§	

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of KAREN INZURRIAGA, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number 132909 with Prescription Authorization Number 22233 and Registered Nurse License Number 638589, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Agreed Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on July 1, 2021.

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 notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Agreed Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas with authorization as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner is in current status with Prescription Authorization Number 22233 in current status.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from San Antonio College, San Antonio, Texas, on December 1, 1996. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 4, 1997. Respondent received a Master's Degree in Nursing from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, Texas, on August

22, 2016. Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner with Prescription Authorization on December 28, 2016.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

3/1997 – 11/1997	Registered Nurse	Vitas Hospice San Antonio, Texas
5/1997 – 7/1999	Registered Nurse	Laurel Ridge Hospital San Antonio, Texas
10/1997 – 6/1999	Registered Nurse	University Hospital San Antonio, Texas
6/1998 – 1/2002	Registered Nurse	Covenant Behavioral Health San Antonio, Texas
5/1999 – 4/2004	Registered Nurse	Baptist Health System San Antonio, Texas
4/2004 – 4/2005	Registered Nurse	Brooke Army Medical Center San Antonio, Texas
5/2004 – 8/2005	Registered Nurse	Texsan Heart Hospital San Antonio, Texas
10/2005 – 9/2007	Registered Nurse	Nix Hospital San Antonio, Texas
7/2007 – 6/2012	Nursing Faculty	Galen College of Nursing San Antonio, Texas
2/2009 – 8/2016	Registered Nurse	Patience Home Health San Antonio, Texas
8/2016 – 1/2017	Unknown	
2/2017 - Present	Psychiatric/ Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	The Center for Health Care Services San Antonio, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Psychiatric/ Mental Health Nurse Practitioner with The Center for Health Care Services, San Antonio, Texas, and had been in that position for three (3) years and ten (10) months.

7. On or about December 7, 2020, while employed as a Psychiatric/ Mental Health Nurse Practitioner with The Center for Health Care Services, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately assess the health history of Patient J.M. and collaborate with her supervising physician and/or the patient's nephrologist prior to prescribing medications to the patient, who had medical conditions including kidney disease, hemodialysis status, diabetes, and current cardiac and antidepressant medications. Additionally, Respondent failed to appropriately reduce the starting dose of venlafaxine hydrochloride based on the patient's dependence on renal dialysis, and prescribed the patient, who was already taking a beta blocker and SNRI antidepressant, a second beta blocker and SNRI antidepressant. Subsequently, after ingesting the new medications prescribed by Respondent, the patient reported severe vomiting, low blood pressures, and worsening anxiety and depression with anger. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient to a risk of harm from adverse side effects of combining beta blockers and SNRI antidepressants. Respondent's conduct also exposed the patient to risk of harm from reduced renal clearance of the venlafaxine hydrochloride.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states the patient's medical issues were carefully considered during each interaction. Respondent also states the venlafaxine hydrochloride was prescribed at the lowest possible dose due to the patient's renal failure. Respondent further states when the patient returned to the clinic one (1) week later complaining of side effects, she discontinued the medication.

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)(M)&(1)(P), and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number 132909 with Prescription Authorization Number 22233 and Registered Nurse License Number 638589, heretofore issued to KAREN INZURRIAGA.
5. Pursuant to Section 301.463(d), Texas Occupations Code, this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408, Texas Rules of Evidence, in civil or criminal litigation.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- A. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to RESPONDENT to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to RESPONDENT'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. Until successfully completed, RESPONDENT may not practice nursing in the State of Texas except in accordance with the terms of this Order.
- D. As a result of this Order, RESPONDENT'S license(s) will be designated "single state" as applicable and RESPONDENT may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state using a Texas compact license.

II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT agrees to comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nursing Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 *et seq.*, and this Agreed Order.

III. UNDERSTANDING BOARD ORDERS

Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT must successfully complete the Board's online course, "Understanding Board Orders", which can be accessed on the Board's website from the "Discipline & Complaints" drop-down menu or directly at: <http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp>. Upon successful completion, RESPONDENT must submit the course verification at the conclusion of the course, which automatically transmits the verification to the Board.

IV. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete the following remedial education course(s) **within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise specifically indicated:**

- A. **A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics** that shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies regarding: Sexual Misconduct; Fraud, Theft, and Deception; Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder; and Lying and Falsification. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. Home study and video programs will not be approved.
- B. **A Board-approved course in APN pharmacology** RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Pharmacology Update/Refresher for Advance Practice Nurses. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study course and video programs will not be approved. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length of classroom time. The six (6) hours may not be configured to include homework assignments. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Advance Practice Nurses. The course shall include content on: all of the major drug classifications and their physiological and therapeutic effects; dosages and administration; precautions; contraindications; and nursing implications. Courses focusing on only one (1) or two (2) groups of drugs, or relating to only one (1) clinical area of practice, will not be accepted. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion of the course. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, available from the Board's website at <http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/pdfs/i17.pdf>, to the office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT'S successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure.
- C. **The course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills,"** a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension.

In order to receive credit for completion of this/these course(s), RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form or SHALL submit the continuing education certificate, as applicable, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office. RESPONDENT SHALL first obtain Board approval of any course prior to enrollment if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. *Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at www.bon.texas.gov/compliance.*

V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas, providing direct patient care in a clinical healthcare setting, for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month for four (4) quarterly periods [one (1) year] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until four (4) quarterly periods of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement. Further, Respondent may not work as a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as applicable, while under the terms of this Order.

A. Notifying Present and Future Employers, Practice Sites and Credentialing Agencies: RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers, practice sites and/or credentialing agencies in nursing and present a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, to each future employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing prior to accepting an offer of employment and/or assignment.

B. Notification of Employment Forms: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit

the Board's "Notification of Employment" form, which is provided to the RESPONDENT by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment" form, which is provided to the RESPONDENT by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.

C. **Monitored Practice:** RESPONDENT'S advanced practice registered nursing must be monitored by a Physician or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in the same advanced role and population focus area as RESPONDENT who has been approved by the Board. RESPONDENT MUST, within ten (10) days of entry of this Order or within (10) days of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse, provide to the Board a list of three (3) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and/or three (3) Physicians from which the Board shall select an approved monitor. For each Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Physician, the list must include name, license number or social security number, educational background and professional employment history. Monitoring shall commence no later than thirty (30) days following the date of RESPONDENT'S receipt of the name of the approved monitor selected by the Board. The monitor will offer guidance, advice and assistance to the RESPONDENT as necessary to ensure that deficiencies such as those set forth in this Order do not reoccur. RESPONDENT SHALL meet with the monitor at least twice a month, at least one (1) hour duration each. Meetings may be longer and more frequent if the monitor determines necessary. Multiple employers are prohibited.

D. **Nursing Performance Reports:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each supervising/monitoring Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician to submit, on forms provided to the RESPONDENT by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician who supervises/monitors the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising/monitoring Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for four (4) quarters [one (1) year] of employment as a nurse.

VI. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) and/or privilege(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and, subject to meeting all existing eligibility requirements in Texas

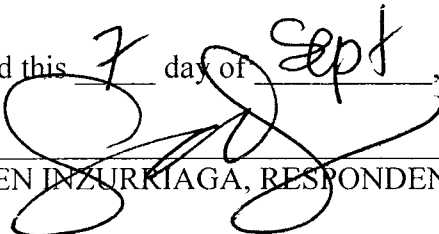
Occupations Code Chapter 304, Article III, RESPONDENT may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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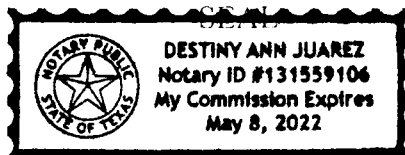
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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this 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 entry of this 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 this Order is subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing and a copy of this Order will be mailed to me once the Order becomes effective. 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 possible revocation of my license(s) and/or privileges to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 7 day of Sept, 2021.

KAREN INZURRIAGA, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7 day of Sept, 2021.




Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 7th day of September, 2021, by KAREN INZURRIAGA, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number 132909 with Prescription Authorization Number 22233 and Registered Nurse License Number 638589, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 21st day of October, 2021.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katherine A. Thomas".

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