

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 521892 issued to LINDA F. GREEN AGREED ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considere the matter of LINDA F. GREEN, Registered Nurse License Number 521892, 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)(effective through 8/31/2021)&(14)(effective 9/1/2021), 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 May 29, 2023.

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.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Prairie View A&M College, Houston, Texas, on December 1, 1984. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 20, 1985.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

3/1985 – 12/1985 Unknown

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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

1/1986 – 9/1991	Registered Nurse	TDCJ/Eastham Unit Weldon, Texas
9/1991 – 8/2004	Registered Nurse	Conroe Regional Medical Center Conroe, Texas
6/1994 – 2/1998	Registered Nurse	Medical Innovations Conroe, Texas
8/2004 - 10/2021	Registered Nurse	CHI St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital The Woodlands, Texas
10/2021 - 7/2022	Unknown	
8/2022 – 1/2023	Registered Nurse	Huntsville Memorial Hospital Huntsville, Texas
2/2023 – Present	Unknown	

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with CHI St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital, The Woodlands, Texas, and had been in that position for seventeen (17) years and two (2) months.
- 7. On or about June 30, 2021, while employed as a Registered Nurse with CHI St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital, The Woodlands, Texas, Respondent failed to correctly administer an intravenous infusion of Ferric Gluconate, which was ordered to be infused over two hours, for Patient Medical Record Number 05486156 in that Respondent began the infusion, but removed the medication from the intravenous infusion pump without disconnecting and/or clamping the line and caused a rapid infusion of the medication. Respondent notified the charge nurse of the error and proceeded to infuse intravenous Lactated Ringer's fluids without a physician order. In addition, Respondent failed to notify the patient's physician of the error. Subsequently, a rapid response was called and the patient was transferred to the intensive care unit for close observation. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to correctly administer medications resulted in the patient suffering from adverse reactions.
- 8. On or about January 13, 2023, through January 14, 2023, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Huntsville Memorial Hospital, Huntsville, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately assess the ability to swallow for Patient Account Number 1108136 despite documenting that the patient was somnolent, refusing to verbally respond, and not following commands with a Glascow Coma Scale score of 11. In addition, Respondent

failed to notify the physician regarding the patient's decreased mentation, and, instead, administered crushed tablets in water and liquid medication to the patient via a syringe that was inserted into the patient's mouth for oral administration. Subsequently, a nurse on the following shift notified the physician regarding the patient's difficulty in arousing with discharge coming out of the patient's mouth. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to assess for dysphagia in a patient with an altered level of consciousness, as well as intervene by notifying the physician and obtaining appropriate orders, placed the patient at risk for aspiration.

9. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she received an error message on the infusion pump, and she attempted to assess the problem. Respondent states while trouble shooting, the medication infused at a faster rate than ordered while the pump was turned off. Respondent states she assessed the patient and left to inform the charge nurse. Respondent states that before she had the chance to notify the patient's physician, she received a call that the patient was having chest pain. Respondent states that she performed an assessment, the patient's condition changed, she began intravenous fluids that were in the room and called for the Rapid Response Team. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent states that she was in the process of assessing other patients when the patient arrived to the unit. Respondent states that the charge nurse performed the initial interview with the patient and did not indicate that the patient had any problems or concerns. Respondent states that she assessed the patient, noted the patient was able to follow her with his eyes and open his mouth, showed no signs of respiratory distress, and had a stable cardiac status. Respondent states that she crushed the oral medications for the patient because one of the pills was extremely large. Respondent states that she mixed the medication with water and administered the medications to the patient. Respondent states that the patient opened his mouth when requested and she observed the patient swallow the medication. Respondent states that the patient did not gag or secrete the medications.

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)(N),(1)(P)&(3)(A) 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)(effective through 8/31/2021)&(14)(effective 9/1/2021), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 521892, heretofore issued to LINDA F. GREEN.

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 **REPRIMAND 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. <u>A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics</u> 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 medication administration with a didactic portion of not less than six (6) hours and a clinical component of not less than twenty-four (24) hours. Both the didactic and clinical components must be provided by the same Registered Nurse. The course's content shall include: a review of proper administration procedures for all standard routes; computation of drug dosages; the six (6) rights of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of medication administration only. 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. Successful completion of this course requires RESPONDENT to successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course.
- C. <u>The course "Righting a Wrong,"</u> a 3.0 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS).

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 <u>not</u> being offered by a pre-approved provider. Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at <u>www.bon.texas.gov/compliance</u>.

V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a 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 eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until eight (8) quarterly periods of employment as a nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as appropriate, will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement.

- A. Notifying Present and Future Employers: RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, prior to accepting an offer of employment.
- B. Notification of Employment Forms: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment" form to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment form" to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- C. **Direct Supervision:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified

and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

- D. Indirect Supervision: For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse, who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as RESPONDENT, but should be on the facility grounds and readily available to provide assistance and intervention if necessary. The supervising nurse shall have a minimum of two (2) years of experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the RESPONDENT is currently working. RESPONDENT SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- E. Nursing Performance Evaluations: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer 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 individual who supervises the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising individual to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for eight (8) quarters [two (2) years] 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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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. 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	; <u> </u>	Nov	, 20 23
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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of NOVEMEN, 20 23.

SEAL

LORENA MUNOZ lotary Public, State of Texas Notary ID 125523904

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Robert Bartlett, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 3 day of 00, 2023.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 3rd day of November, 2023, by LINDA F GREEN. Registered Nurse License Number 521892, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 12th day of December, 2023.

Kristin K. Berton, DNP, RN

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN Executive Director on behalf of said Board