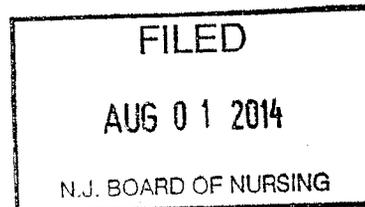


JOHN J. HOFFMAN
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law, 5th Floor
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, NJ 07101
Attorney for the State Board of Nursing



By: Susan Carboni
Deputy Attorney General
Tel. (973)648-2894

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE
LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

GRACE SAMUEL, R.N.
LICENSE # NR 12527100

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information that respondent Grace Samuel, R.N., while employed as a nurse at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, on at least one occasion in February of 2012 documented assessment of the status of a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube that had been installed to feed patient S.C. in the event that he refused to eat. The records indicate that S.C. was a difficult patient. Respondent documented that the PEG tube was

intact. However, on February 22, 2012, the patient's treating physician at the found the PEG tube had been removed, and the fistula wound had already healed completely. S.C. stated that he had pulled out the tube, or that it had fallen out, two weeks earlier.

Respondent indicated that she documented that the PEG tube was intact without assessing it because the patient had a history of refusing treatment of any kind. According to respondent, on February 22, 2012, the patient's psychiatrist noted that the patient "refused to talk" and that he had "zero insight into his illness and poor judgment." Also according to respondent, she documented that the PEG tube was intact without assessing it because the patient had a history of refusing treatment of any kind. Nevertheless, respondent documented that she assessed the PEG tube.

Respondent further maintains that prior to February 2012, S.C.'s physicians had not entered any order permitting respondent to request a "physical hold" in order to feed S.C. if he refused care. Respondent maintains that subsequently a "physical hold" order was authorized for S.C. Moreover, respondent maintains that there is no indication that S.C. suffered any harm with respect to the removal of the PEG tube.

The Board finds that respondent's documentation that S.C.'s PEG tube was intact at a time when it could not have been intact

indicates that she provided inaccurate documentation with regard to an assessment which did not occur, which constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

The Board further finds that respondent failed to timely complete continuing education requirements for the 2010-2012 renewal period, although she indicated on her 2012 renewal application that she would complete all required continuing education for 2010-2012 licensing cycle by May 31, 2012. (Respondent submitted proof that she had timely completed continuing education requirements for the 2012-2014 renewal period, but indicated she was unable to locate documentation for the 2010-2012 renewal period.) Accordingly, the Board finds that respondent failed to comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, and engaged in misrepresentation on her application in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

The parties desiring to resolve this matter without admissions and without further proceedings, and respondent waiving any right to a hearing, and the Board finding that the within order is sufficiently protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS ON THIS 1st DAY OF August, 2014

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. A reprimand is hereby imposed for respondent's violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

2. A reprimand is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

3. A \$500 civil penalty is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and a \$250 civil penalty is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, for a total penalty amount of \$750. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check, money order, or attorney trust account check, made payable to the State of New Jersey, and shall be submitted along with this signed order.

4. Respondent shall, within six months, document completion of a nursing ethics course pre-approved by the Board, which shall not be eligible towards satisfaction of respondent's continuing education obligations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. As respondent has already provided documentation of completion of a Board-approved ethics course, and no further action is required of respondent in this regard.

5. Continuing education courses dated November of 2013 and used to belatedly satisfy continuing education requirements for the 2010-2012 licensing cycle shall not be used to satisfy respondent's continuing education requirements for the 2012-2014 renewal period.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Patricia Ann Murphy PLD APN

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C

I have read and understand
the within Consent Order and
agree to be bound by its terms.

Paul Samuel
Grace Samuel, R.N.

Consent as to form and entry:

Alma L. Saravia
Alma L. Saravia, Esq.
Attorney for respondent
