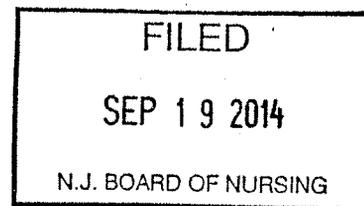


JOHN J. HOFFMAN  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY  
Division of Law, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
124 Halsey Street  
P.O. Box 45029  
Newark, NJ 07101  
Attorney for the State Board of Nursing



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

AMY SELPH, R.N.  
LICENSE # NR12324300

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 a Medical Malpractice Payment Report. The Board having considered the available information finds that on or about August 14-15, 2008, while employed as a

nurse at CentraState Medical Center, respondent engaged in repeated acts of negligence, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d), in connection with the post-operative care of a 42 year-old male patient, D.W.

D.W. underwent exploratory surgery on August 14, 2008. An initial post-surgery assessment indicated a heart rate of 80. Respondent assumed care of D.W. at 7:00 p.m. Vital signs taken at that time, by the nurse on the previous shift, included a heart rate elevated to 108.

The first set of vital signs taken on respondent's shift, at 8:00 p.m., indicated a temperature of 101.7 and a heart rate of 88. At 9:00 p.m. respondent indicated in her notes that D.W. was tachycardic, with no further assessment and without notifying the physician. At 11:00 p.m. vital signs were taken, and D.W. had a heart rate of 120. No pulse oximetry results were noted. At midnight vital signs were documented that were the same as the results at 11:00 p.m. No vital signs were subsequently taken until 4:00 a.m., which showed increasing tachycardia, manifested by a heart rate of 146 and blood pressure readings of 68/24.

At 1:10 a.m., respondent had contacted the physician to obtain an order for Benadryl for D.W. because he was restless, with bowel sounds absent. She did not advise the physician of D.W.'s tachycardia or recheck vital signs.

At 4:00 a.m. the resident physicians were contacted and D.W. was transferred to the ICU at approximately 6:00 a.m. Following exploratory surgery, it was ascertained that D.W. suffered from a ruptured spleen with massive intra-abdominal bleeding. D.W. did not respond to therapy, went into cardiac arrest, and ultimately died.

Respondent's failure to monitor vital signs sufficiently, leaving a gap from midnight until 4:00 a.m., although she had been ordered to monitor vital signs every two hours; respondent's failure to advise the physician of the high heart rate readings; her failure to monitor urine output and advise physicians that D.W.'s urine output was approximately 20 cc per hour, though D.W.'s intravenous intake was 125 cc per hour; constituted repeated acts of negligence in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d).

Respondent's New Jersey nursing license expired on May 31, 2014. 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 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF September, 2014

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

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

2. Respondent shall, prior to reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license, demonstrate successful completion of a course in clinical assessment and a course in assessment of post-operative patients, which courses shall include a clinical component, and which shall be pre-approved by the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Patricia Ann Murphy*  
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C

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

*Amy K. Selph, RN*  
Amy Selph, R.N. 9/11/14