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August 4, 2015

VIA REGULAR MAIL

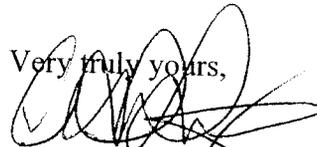
Susan Carboni, D.A.G.
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Re: In the Matter of the License of Maria Mendoza, R.N.

Dear Ms. Carboni:

Pursuant to our discussion last week, enclosed please find a copy of the signed Consent Order on behalf of Maria Mendoza. If you have any questions or need anything else, please contact me. Otherwise, we will assume the matter is concluded.

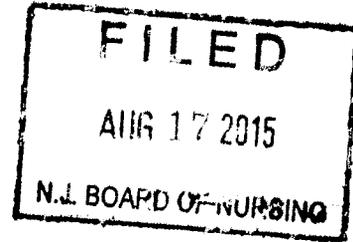
Very truly yours,


KEITH L. HOVEY

Enc.

cc: Ms. Maria Mendoza (w/enc.) (via regular mail)

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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

MARIA MENDOZA, R.N.
LICENSE # NR 11179100

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 alleging that respondent, while employed as a nurse at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Somerset, New Jersey, entered inaccurate information in the medical records of a patient, N.B., who was in her care on September 2, 2014.

On the date in question, respondent was assigned to N.B., a 29 year-old female patient with sickle cell anemia. The patient underwent a blood transfusion. According to facility policy, N.B.'s vital signs were to be taken every fifteen minutes until the transfusion was completed. Respondent took N.B.'s vital signs at 12:20 p.m. but admits that she was unable to take N.B.'s vital signs at 12:35 p.m. and 1:05 p.m., because she was called away to attend to another patient, and nobody else was available to obtain the vital signs. Respondent subsequently followed the facility protocol in taking N.B.'s vital signs, and noted no adverse reaction on the part of the N.B. to the transfusion. However, when the transfusion was completed at 3:05 p.m., respondent admitted that she documented vital signs in the medical record for 12:35 p.m. and 1:05 p.m. for "administrative purposes," although the information recorded was necessarily fabricated, as the vital signs had not been taken or recorded by respondent or any other person at those times. Respondent acknowledges that it was improper on her part to fill in the fabricated vital signs, although she maintains that no patient harm resulted from this conduct.

The Board finds that respondent's entry into the medical record of information that respondent knew to be fabricated constitutes dishonesty or misrepresentation within the intentment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

The parties desiring to resolve this matter without further proceedings, 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 17th DAY OF August, 2015

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. A reprimand is hereby imposed for respondent's violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21b).
2. Respondent shall, within six months, document completion of a continuing education course in documentation, pre-approved by the Board, which shall not be eligible towards satisfaction of a respondent's continuing education obligations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Patricia Murphy PhD APN

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C
Board President

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

Maria Mendoza, RN
Maria Mendoza, R.N.