

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION**

BOARD OF NURSING

**In Re: Jessica Diprizio,
RN Lic. # 049201-21**

Docket No.: 2022-NUR-011

**ORDER OF EMERGENCY
SUSPENSION – 03/24/22**

I. CASE SUMMARY/PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

On 03/07/22, the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, Division of Enforcement (“OPLC Enforcement”), acting on behalf of the Board of Nursing (“Board”), received a complaint from Huggins Hospital in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, alleging that Jessica Diprizio (“Licensee”) had been diverting medications from patients at Huggins Hospital. On 03/24/22, the Board held an emergency meeting during its non-public session pursuant to RSA 541-A:30(III), RSA 326-B:37(IV), and N.H. Code Admin. R., Title Nur 402.03(a) (“Rules”).

In cases involving imminent danger to public health, safety, or welfare, the board may order the immediate suspension of a license pending an adjudicative proceeding.

On 03/24/22, Samantha O’Neil, Chair of the Board, acted as presiding officer under N.H. Code Admin. R. Nur Rule 202.01(l) and 208.01(b)(“Rules”).

II. EVIDENCE PRESENTED AND CONDUCT OF HEARING:

The Board was presented with a complaint filed by Huggins Hospital dated 03/07/22 and an offer of proof presented by Michael Porter, Esq., an attorney for OPLC Enforcement.¹ A review of the evidence presented, and the reasonable inferences taken therefrom, allows the Board to find as follows below.

The Licensee is actively licensed in New Hampshire as a registered nurse with license number # 049201-21. On 03/07/22, OPLC Enforcement received a complaint filed by Stacey Savage at Huggins Hospital alleging that a Wolfeboro Police Officer had responded to a domestic complaint at the home of the Licensee, who works at the hospital. The complaint explains that while the police officer was there, the Licensee's husband told the officer that the Licensee had been diverting medications from Huggins Hospital and then handed over a bag with a name on it containing medications. According to the complaint, the Officer came to Huggins Hospital to learn whether the name listed on the bag corresponded with any of its patients, and the hospital confirmed that it does. After learning from the Wolfeboro Police Department that the bag of medication was found at the Licensee's home, Huggins Hospital placed the Licensee on suspension pending an investigation. It is unknown to the Board whether the Licensee is suspended with or without pay.

Attorney Porter explained that Megan Verhegyi, RN Director of Quality and Risk at Huggins Hospital additionally reported to him on 03/07/22 that the medications contained in the bag belonged to at least two patients. The medication for Patient 1 consisted of Trazadone 50 mg x 2 tabs, Abilify 15 mg, Propanolo 20 mg, and Duloxetine 30 mg. The medication for Patient 2 was Gabapentin 300 mg. Ms. Verhegyi further reported to Attorney Porter that there is no discrepancy for these medications in the patient record documentation. Ms. Verhegyi noted that during the hospital's investigation into this matter, it was discovered that another patient ("Patient 3") was also affected by Licensee's conduct. According

¹ New Hampshire Attorneys are subject to a professional obligation of candor to the tribunal. *See* New Hampshire Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3. The Board meets the definition of tribunal in New Hampshire Rule of Professional 1.0(m) when acting in its quasi-judicial capacity, as it has in making this determination.

to Ms. Verhegyi, Licensee signed off as having given a heparin injection to Patient 3 but the Hospital determined the medication was never actually given. Licensee claimed Patient 3 was sleeping.

III. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS OF FACTS / CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

After considering the evidence, the Board finds there is a reasonable basis to suspend the Licensee's New Hampshire license on an emergency basis. There are sufficient facts to prove that Licensee has engaged in serious professional misconduct, including diverting medications, not providing the patients noted herein with the aforementioned prescribed medications, and falsifying and/or making incorrect records related to the administration of the medications for these patients. Such conduct appears to be a violation of RSAs 326-B:37(II)(e), (g), (h)(1), (k), (m), (n), (p)(2), q(2), and/or (q)(3). The Licensee's conduct on its face and the potential consequences to the patients involved (namely not receiving prescribed medications and having incorrect medical records upon which medical professionals are relying upon when providing treatment) demonstrate the Licensee poses an imminent threat to the public health, safety, and welfare, so as to warrant immediate emergency suspension pursuant to RSA 541-A:30(III) and RSA 326-B:37(IV).

IV. CONCLUSION AND DECISION:

Pursuant to RSA 541-A:30(III) and 326-B:37(IV), the Board hereby orders the immediate emergency suspension of Jessica Diprizio's license as an RN, pending a follow up emergency hearing in this matter. A Notice of Emergency Hearing with an appropriate date/time shall follow forthwith.

DATED: 3/24/2022

_____/s/ Nikolas Frye, Esq._____
Hearings Examiner
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