

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: HEATHER K. WIDGEON, R.N.**  
**License No.: 0001-228637**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 54.1-110 and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a formal administrative hearing was held before a panel of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on November 18, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Heather K. Widgeon, R.N. may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nursing practice in Virginia. The case was presented by Amy Weiss, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division. James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Widgeon was present and was not represented by legal counsel. The proceedings were recorded by a certified court reporter.

Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Heather K. Widgeon, R.N. was issued License No. 0001-228637 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 7, 2011. Said license is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2016. Ms. Widgeon's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. During the course of her employment with Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Norfolk, Virginia:
  - a. Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or document assessments for several patients between January and March 2014.
    - i. On January 10, 2014, Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or document the results of respiratory assessments for a patient.
    - ii. On January 17, 2014, and January 18, 2014, Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or

document the results of respiratory and pain assessments, as well as vital signs taken with regard to a patient.

iii. On February 14, 2014, Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or document the results of a patient's vital signs, as well as respiratory and pain assessments.

iv. On February 21, 2014 and February 22, 2014, Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or document the results of respiratory assessments for a patient.

v. On February 21, 2014 and February 22, 2014, Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or document the results of respiratory assessments for a patient.

vi. On February 27, 2014, Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or document the results of vital signs and pain assessments for a patient.

vii. On March 3, 2014, Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or document the results of vital signs, as well as pain and respiratory assessments for a patient.

viii. On March 7, 2014, Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or document the results of vital signs and pain assessments for three patients.

ix. On January 17, 2014, January 18, 2014 and January 19, 2014, Ms. Widgeon failed to assess or document the results of vital signs and respiratory assessments for a patient.

b. Ms. Widgeon documented IV fluid rate values prior to administering fluid on several occasions for several patients in April 2014.

i. On April 4, 2014 and April 5, 2014, Ms. Widgeon documented IV fluid rate values prior to fluid being administered to a patient on five occasions.

ii. On April 20, 2014 and April 21, 2014, Ms. Widgeon documented IV fluid rate values prior to fluid being administered to a patient on ten occasions.

iii. On April 26, 2014 and April 27, 2014, Ms. Widgeon documented IV fluid rate values prior to fluid being administered to a patient on six occasions.

iv. On April 26, 2014, and April 27, 2014, Ms. Widgeon documented IV fluid rate

values prior to fluid being administered to a patient on eight occasions.

v. On April 4, 2014 and April 5, 2014, Ms. Widgeon documented IV fluid rate values prior to fluid being administered to a patient on six occasions.

c. On May 13, 2014, Ms. Widgeon gave another patient, a four-year-old, newly diagnosed diabetic, an inappropriate amount of carbohydrates as a snack. The patient's insulin dosage was only appropriate for 30 grams of carbohydrates. Ms. Widgeon gave the patient 59 grams of carbohydrates; however, by the parents' report of what the patient ingested, the patient received approximately 148 grams of carbohydrates. In addition, Ms. Widgeon failed to check the patient's blood sugar prior to giving the patient her snack, Ms. Widgeon's calculations were incorrect with regard to carbohydrate grams, Ms. Widgeon incorrectly documented "cola" for a drink, and Ms. Widgeon failed to document giving the patient two juice boxes. Furthermore, based on the incorrect carbohydrate calculation, Ms. Widgeon administered an incorrect dose of insulin. As a result of Ms. Widgeon's actions, the patient suffered a temporary drop in blood sugar levels.

3. Ms. Widgeon told an investigator for the Department of Health Professions on August 22, 2014 that her concentration at work at the time of these incidents may have been negatively affected by personal stressors. At the formal hearing, Ms. Widgeon testified that her performance may have been impaired by her prescribed medications.

4. As a result of these incidents, Ms. Widgeon's employment with Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters was suspended on May 13, 2014 pending the result of the investigation of the matter by the Department of Health Professions. Ms. Widgeon resigned on June 23, 2014.

5. Ms. Widgeon told the investigator that she was not working as of August 22, 2014. Ms. Widgeon stated at the formal hearing that she worked at Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia from August 2014 through September 2015.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board concludes that:

1. Findings of Fact Nos. 2(a)(i) through 2(a)(ix) constitute a violation of §54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (“Regulations”).
2. Findings of Fact Nos. 2(b)(i) through 2(b)(v) constitute a violation of §54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations.
3. Finding of Fact No. 2(c) constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) and (f) of the Regulations.

### ORDER

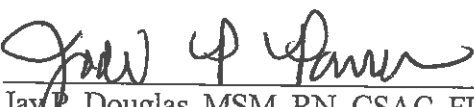
WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Heather K. Widgeon, R.N. is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Widgeon shall provide the Board with verification that she has completed the National Council of State Board of Nursing online courses “Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care”; “Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses”; and “Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills for Competent Nursing Practice” within 90 days of the entry of this Order. These courses shall not be credited toward the continued competency requirements for the next renewal of her license.
3. Ms. Widgeon shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a professional nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.
4. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or of any law or regulation affecting the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of Heather K. Widgeon, R.N., and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine

whether such license shall be suspended or revoked.

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying on request.

FOR THE BOARD

  
for Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

December 3, 2015  
ENTERED

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.

Certified True Copy

By   
Virginia Board Of Nursing