

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:       WALTER ECHOLS, R.N.  
              License No.: 0001-119880**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) met on December 8, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Walter Echols, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing professional nursing practice in Virginia. Mr. Echols was present and was not represented by counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1.       Walter Echols, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-119880 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on August 29, 1990. Said license expires on October 31, 2016. Mr. Echols’ primary state of residence is Virginia.
2.       By letter dated November 18, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Mr. Echols notifying him that an informal conference would be held on December 8, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 3735 Kentland Drive, Roanoke, Virginia, 24018, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.
3.       During the course of his employment with Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Roanoke, Virginia, Mr. Echols committed numerous medication errors, as follows:

- a. On December 31, 2014, at 6:56 a.m., Mr. Echols withdrew two tablets of oxycodone (C-II) for Patient A and failed to document the administration, wastage, or return of the medication. According to the Medication Administration Record, Mr. Echols had administered two tablets of oxycodone to Patient A at 5:04 a.m., which he had withdrawn at 5:01 a.m.
- b. On December 5, 2014, at 4:03 a.m., Mr. Echols withdrew two 325-mg tablets of acetaminophen for Patient B and failed to account for their administration, wastage or return.
- c. On December 3, 2014, at 4:33 a.m., Mr. Echols withdrew one 5-mg tablet of oxycodone for Patient C and failed to account for its administration, wastage or return.
- d. On October 14, 2014, at 4:31 a.m., Mr. Echols withdrew two 1-mg tablets of lorazepam (C-IV) for Patient D and failed to account for their administration, wastage or return.
- e. On December 12, 2009, Mr. Echols withdrew two hydrocodone 5/325 tablets (C-II) for Patient E and failed to account for the administration, wastage or return of one tablet.
- f. On December 14, 2009, Mr. Echols withdrew two tablets of oxycodone at 9:16 a.m. for Patient F and failed to account for the administration, wastage, or return of that medication.
- g. On December 30, 2009, Mr. Echols withdrew two tablets of alprazolam (C-IV) for Patient G at 7:29 a.m. and failed to account for the administration, wastage, or return of one tablet.
- h. On December 12, 2009, Mr. Echols withdrew two tablets of alprazolam for Patient H at 11:14 a.m. and failed to account for administration wastage or return of one tablet.
- i. On March 5, 2010, Mr. Echols withdrew two tablets of clonazepam (C-IV) for Patient I at 9:41 a.m. and two more at 1:43 p.m. and failed to account for the administration, wastage or return of one tablet from each withdrawal.

j. On March 7, 2010, Mr. Echols withdrew two tablets of lorazepam for Patient J at 2:39 p.m. and two more tablets at 3:39 p.m. for Patient J and failed to account for administration wastage or return of one tablet for each withdrawal.

4. Mr. Echols stated at the informal conference that there were numerous additional instances of his failure to account for the administration, wastage or return of the medication during his employment at Carilion. Mr. Echols resigned his employment during an investigation into his medication errors.

5. Mr. Echols stated that he was currently employed in the cardiovascular progressive care unit of Lewis Gale Medical Center, Salem, Virginia. He stated that his employer was aware of his presence before the Board.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact Nos. 3(a) through 3(j) constitute violations of § 54.1-3007(5) of the Code.

### ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS as follows:

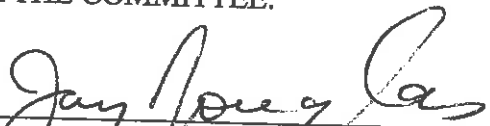
1. Walter Echols, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Mr. Echols shall provide the Board with verification that he has completed the following NCSBN online courses within 60 days of the date this Order is entered: *Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses* and *Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care*. These courses shall not be credited toward the continued competency requirements for the next renewal of his license.
3. Mr. Echols shall maintain a course of conduct in his 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 Mr. Echols 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.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Mr. Echols may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on February 22, 2016, notify Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that he desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

  
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Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.  
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

This Order shall become final on February 22, 2016; unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy  
By D. Bowler  
Virginia Board of Nursing