



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Director

Department of Health Professions

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

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AMENDED NOTICE

September 12, 2014

Ella Denise Prince-Hinton, R.N., L.N.P.
1230 Plantation Lakes Circle
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

CERTIFIED MAIL

9414726699042003236269

RE: VA License Nos.: 0001-112657, 0024-112657, 0017-001160
Expiration Dates: May 31, 2016

Dear Ms. Prince-Hinton:

This is official notification that an informal conference will be held pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), **on October 8, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.**, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia 23233. You may be represented by an attorney at the conference. This informal conference will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3700 *et seq.* of the Code.

The Special Conference Committee ("Committee") comprised of three members of the Virginia Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine ("Committee of the Joint Boards") will inquire into allegations that you may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nurse practitioner practice in Virginia.

Specifically, during the course of your employment with the Naval Medical Center - Sewells Point OB/GYN Clinic, Portsmouth, Virginia, you may have violated § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code, 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(b) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing, and 18 VAC 90-30-220(4) of the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners in that:

1. On or about November 8, 2011, you failed to establish a plan of care for an obstetric patient who presented with the following issues: elevated body mass index (BMI), sickle cell trait, history of pulmonary embolism, light spotting, prior Cesarean delivery, and prior infant who was large for gestational age (LGA). Further, on or about February 3, 2012, you documented the results of the patient's fetal anatomy ultrasound, which noted an echogenic focus within the left ventricle of the heart; however, there is no documentation that you discussed the finding with the patient.
2. On or about January 9, 2012, you failed to establish a plan of care for an obstetric patient who presented with a history of pulmonary embolism and whose lab results noted that she was Varicella non-immune. Further, a plan of care was not documented on subsequent visits on February 14 and March 20, 2012.
3. On or about March 12 and April 16, 2012, you documented that an obstetric patient had a history of delivery at 35 weeks; however, you failed to elicit any other details regarding the delivery and establish a plan of care for this condition.
4. During the course of your treatment of an obstetric patient who had an initial ultrasound performed on or about March 2, 2012, you failed to consider a possible dating discrepancy versus Intra-uterine Growth Retardation (IUGR). Subsequent ultrasounds were performed using the initial expected delivery date and the patient was scheduled for induction of labor on or about May 25, 2012, due to IUGR. However, when the patient reported for the scheduled induction, a review of the dating criteria was performed and the pregnancy was noted to have been incorrectly dated, and that the fetus was growing appropriately and was not growth restricted.
5. During the course of your treatment of a patient who presented for obstetric care on or about February 13, 2012, you documented a history of pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH)/pre-eclampsia, previous c-section; however, you failed to elicit details regarding these conditions and establish a plan of care.
6. During the course of your treatment of a patient who presented for obstetric care on or about January 25, 2012, you failed to establish a plan of care regarding the patient's hemoglobin C trait and the father of the child's sickle cell trait.
7. During the course of your treatment of a patient who presented for obstetric care on or about December 23, 2011, you documented that the patient had bilateral choroid plexus cysts (CPC), but you failed to counsel the patient regarding this finding. You also documented that the patient had a history of atrial septal defect but you failed to establish a plan of care for this condition.
8. During the course of your treatment of a patient who presented for obstetric care on or about June 11, 2011, you documented that the patient had three miscarriages, all at less than ten weeks gestation. You failed to establish a plan of care for recurrent pregnancy loss or antiphospholipid antibody syndrome. On or about September 16, 2011, you documented that the patient had subclinical hypothyroidism and started her on Synthroid. You failed to indicate why you prescribed this medication, in view of current medical recommendations that subclinical hypothyroidism not be treated as there is no consistent evidence that adverse maternal or fetal outcomes are associated with this condition.

In its deliberations, the Special Conference Committee may use the Sanction Reference Points System, as contained in the Sanction Reference Manual. The manual, which is a guidance document of the Board of Nursing, may be accessed at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing>. Please click on *Guidance Documents*, then select #90-7. You may also request a paper copy from the Board of Nursing office by calling (804) 367-4515.

After the informal conference, the Special Conference Committee is authorized by § 54.1-2400(10) of the Code to take any of the following actions:

- If the Committee finds that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further action or that the charges are without foundation, the Committee shall notify you by mail that your record has been cleared of any charge which might affect your right to practice as a nurse practitioner in the Commonwealth;
- The Committee may place you on probation for such time as it may designate and subject to such terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate;
- The Committee may reprimand you; or
- The Committee may impose a monetary penalty.

Further, the Special Conference Committee may refer the case to the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine or a panel thereof for a formal hearing. If the Special Conference Committee is of the opinion that suspension or revocation may be justified, it may offer you a Consent Order for suspension or revocation in lieu of a formal hearing.

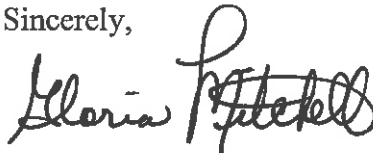
If you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Committee may proceed to hear the case in your absence and may take any of the actions outlined above. At least ten days prior to the scheduled date of the conference, please inform this office at (804) 367-4515, or in writing at the address listed above, of your telephone number and whether you intend to appear at the informal conference.

To facilitate this proceeding, you should submit five copies of any documents you wish the Committee to consider to the Department of Health Professions, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, by **October 1, 2014**. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or email.

You have the right to the information on which the Special Conference Committee will rely in making its decision. The documents will be distributed to the members of the Committee and will be considered by the Committee when discussing any allegations with you and when deliberating on your case. **These documents were mailed to you with the original notice sent by certified mail on March 31, 2014. Please bring these documents with you to the informal conference.**

Relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which govern proceedings of this nature, as well as laws relating to the practice of nursing and other healing arts in Virginia cited in this notice, can be found on the Internet at <http://leg1.state.va.us>. To access this information, please click on the *Code of Virginia* for statutes and *Virginia Administrative Code* for regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gloria D. Mitchell, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A.
Deputy Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Anne G. Joseph, Deputy Director, Administrative Proceedings Division
Special Conference Committee Members
Kim Martin, Senior Investigator (Case No. 151811)