

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:       BRENDA L. PATTERSON, R.N.**  
**License No.: 0001-151319**

**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 June 18, 2012, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Brenda L. Patterson, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing professional nursing practice in Virginia and to inquire into evidence that Ms. Patterson may have violated certain terms and conditions imposed on her license to practice professional nursing in Virginia, as set forth in the Order of the Board entered on February 11, 2011. Ms. Patterson 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. Brenda Patterson, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-151319 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 12, 1996. Said license is scheduled to expire on November 30, 2012. Ms. Patterson’s primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated May 21, 2012, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Patterson notifying her that an informal conference would be held on June 18, 2012. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 300 West Franklin Street, #1503 East, Richmond, Virginia, 23220, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice was also sent to 300 West Franklin Street, #1202 West, Richmond, Virginia, 23220, a secondary address.

3. On February 11, 2011, the Board entered an Order affecting Ms. Patterson's license to practice professional nursing and placing her on indefinite probation for not less than one year with terms and conditions ("Board's Order").

4. During the course of her employment with Kindred Hospital, Richmond, Virginia, between November 28, 2011, and February 6, 2012:

a. On December 30, 2011, Ms. Patterson failed to administer medications to three patients and she failed to follow proper procedure to ensure a patient was receiving parenteral nutrition as ordered.

b. Ms. Patterson failed to properly dispose of needles in the sharps bin and left uncapped needles in the patient's bed.

c. Ms. Patterson administered a dose of Valium to the wrong patient.

d. On multiple occasions, Ms. Patterson entered patients' isolation rooms without wearing personal protective equipment.

e. Ms. Patterson failed to document the administration of Dilaudid (hydromorphone – Schedule II) to a patient.

5. Ms. Patterson's employment with Kindred Hospital was terminated on February 6, 2012.

6. During the course of her employment with Southside Regional Medical Center, Petersburg, Virginia, between September 19, 2011, and September 21, 2011,

a. Ms. Patterson failed to properly mix a prescribed dose of Ancef for Patient A, leading to a delay in the patient receiving his medication.

b. Ms. Patterson failed to properly mix a prescribed dose of Ancef and an IV solution for Patient B, leading to a delay in the patient receiving his medication.

c. Ms. Patterson failed to administer Protonix and Levoxyl to Patient C as prescribed by her physician.

d. Ms. Patterson failed to administer Lovenox SubQ to Patient D as prescribed by her physician.

7. Ms. Patterson was hired at Southside Regional Medical Center on July 11, 2011, and resigned her employment on September 27, 2011.

8. Term No. 2(e) of the Board's Order required Ms. Patterson to complete, within 90 days of the entry of the Board's Order, the following NCSBN online courses: *Ethics in Nursing Practice; Medication Errors: Detection & Prevention; Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know; and Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses*. Ms. Patterson failed to complete the courses in a timely manner.

9. Term No. 2(f) of the Board's Order required Ms. Patterson to obtain approval from the Board prior to beginning nursing employment. Ms. Patterson did not obtain approval to begin nursing employment at Southside Regional Medical Center until September 9, 2011, although she began working there approximately eight weeks earlier.

10. Term No. 2(g) of the Board's Order required Ms. Patterson to submit quarterly "Self-Reports." Ms. Patterson failed to submit the reports that were due on June 30, 2011, and September 30, 2011, on time.

11. Term No. 2(h) of the Board's Order required Ms. Patterson to return all copies of her license to practice professional nursing within ten days of the entry of the Board's Order. Ms. Patterson did not do so until April 11, 2011.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Findings of Fact Nos. 4(a) through 4(e) and 6(a) through 6(d) constitute violations of § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.
2. Finding of Fact No. 8 constitutes a violation of Term No. 2(e) of the Board's Order.
3. Finding of Fact No. 9 constitutes a violation of Term No. 2(f) of the Board's Order.
4. Finding of Fact No. 10 constitutes a violation of Term No. 2(g) of the Board's Order.
5. Finding of Fact No. 11 constitutes a violation of Term No. 2(h) of the Board's Order.

**ORDER**

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

1. Brenda L. Patterson, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Patterson is hereby continued on INDEFINITE PROBATION for not less than eighteen months of actual nursing employment subject to the following terms and conditions:
  - a. The period of probation, which began on February 11, 2011, shall continue indefinitely. After eighteen months of active employment as a professional nurse, Ms. Patterson may request that the Board end this probation.
  - b. Ms. Patterson shall inform the Board in writing within ten days of the date she begins nursing practice, or changes employment, or if any interruption in nursing practice occurs. Additionally, Ms. Patterson shall provide the name and address of each employer to the Board.
  - c. Ms. Patterson shall inform her current nursing employer and each future nursing employer that the Board has placed her on probation and shall provide each employer with a complete copy of this Order. If Ms. Patterson is employed through a staffing agency, she shall inform her supervisor in each facility where assigned that she is on probation.

d. Performance Evaluations shall be provided, at the direction of Ms. Patterson, by all nursing employer(s), as provided by the Compliance Division. The first report must be received in the Board office no later than 60 days from the date this Order is entered. Subsequent reports must be received quarterly by the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until the period of probation ends.

e. Ms. Patterson shall practice nursing only in a structured/supervised employment setting satisfactory to the Board for the first six months after being placed on probation. This employment setting shall provide on-site supervision by a professional nurse who works the same shift, works on the same level of the building, and holds an unrestricted license. For all current nursing employment, and before beginning or changing nursing employment during this period, Ms. Patterson shall have current and all prospective employers provide a written description of the employment setting to the Board office for approval.

f. Ms. Patterson shall submit quarterly "Self-Reports" which include a current address, telephone number, and verification of all current employment. These reports shall also include any changes in employment status. The first report must be received in the Board office no later than 60 days from the date this Order is entered. Subsequent reports must be received quarterly by the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until the period of probation ends.

g. Ms. Patterson 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.

h. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Patterson and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license shall be revoked.

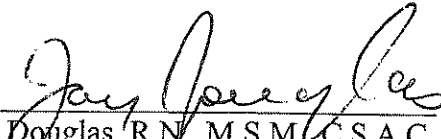
3. This Order shall be applicable to Ms. Patterson's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is further ordered that for the duration of

this Order, Ms. Patterson may not work outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where she wishes to work.

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, Ms. Patterson may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on August 14, 2012, notify Jay P. Douglas, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that she 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:

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

ENTERED: July 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

This Order shall become final on August 14, 2012 unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By draham  
Virginia Board of Nursing