

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Christopher Huntington, M.D.**

**License Number MD09300**

**Controlled Substances Registration Number CMD09300**

**BMLD Case Number C13-122**

**SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Christopher Huntington, M.D. (hereinafter "Respondent") is licensed as a physician in Rhode Island and is licensed to prescribe controlled substances under Rhode Island General Laws chapter 21-28, having both a state Controlled Substances Registration and a Federal Drug Enforcement Administration Registration to prescribe controlled substances. After a review of the above-numbered complaint filed in February 2013, and a review of medical and pharmacy records, the Director of the Department of Health makes the following:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent has been licensed as a physician in Rhode Island since October 2, 1996. His primary specialty is orthopedic surgery, and he has hospital privileges at Saint Joseph's Hospital and Roger Williams Medical Center. His business address is 298 West Exchange Street, Providence, Rhode Island.
2. Respondent has been treating Patient A, a 55 year old male. Respondent prescribed that this patient should take a certain number of Oxycodone Hydrochloride 30 milligrams

("Oxycodone IR 30") over a 372 day period (January 5, 2012 to January 11, 2013), but Respondent authorized an amount to be dispensed that would be an equivalent of 565 days of this narcotic if the patient were to follow that same daily dosage (for a total of 6720 tablets). In addition, Respondent prescribed another 480 tablets of Oxycodone IR 15 mg for a 50 day supply during the same 372 day period. Patient A filled various prescriptions during that time period at eight different pharmacies.

3. On September 24, 2012, Respondent prescribed a thirty day supply of Oxycodone IR 30 (240 tablets) to Patient A in one prescription, and on the same date, Respondent prescribed another 240 tablets of Oxycodone IR 30 to Patient A in another prescription. Patient A paid for one prescription in cash, and the other prescription was paid for by Patient A's insurance. Four days earlier, Respondent had prescribed another 240 tablets of Oxycodone 30. This allowed Patient A to obtain 720 tablets of Oxycodone in a four day period.
4. On October 17, 2012, Respondent wrote a prescription to Patient A for 240 tablets of Oxycodone IR 30 that was to be filled on October 23, and which Patient A did at a first pharmacy. On October 22, 2012, Respondent wrote a prescription to Patient A for another 240 tablets of Oxycodone IR 30, with no fill-date instruction, which Patient A filled at a second pharmacy. Three days later, Respondent wrote another prescription to Patient A for 240 tablets of Oxycodone IR 30, which Patient A filled at a third pharmacy.
5. Respondent's medical records for Patient A inadequately addressed Respondent's pain management controls or any rationale for such excessive prescriptions, and Respondent did not monitor Patient A's narcotic use by urine toxicology screening.

6. Respondent began prescribing 240 tablets of Oxycodone IR 30 for Patient B, a 41 year old female, on November 8, 2012. She shares an address with Patients A. The FDA-approved package insert for this narcotic states, "Patients who have not been receiving opioid analgesics should be started on ROXICODONE ® (Oxycodone IR) in a dosing range of 5 to 15 mg every 4 to 6 hours as needed for pain." Patient B had not been receiving outpatient opioids from January 1, 2008 to November 8, 2012. Respondent's initial dose to Patient B of 240 milligrams of Oxycodone IR 30 was more than double, and nearly triple, the recommended daily initial dose of 90 milligrams listed on the FDA-approved manufacturer insert for the drug.
7. Respondent has been treating Patient C, an 80 year old male who shares an address with Patient A. Respondent began prescribing 240 tablets of Oxycodone IR 30 for Patient C on August 17, 2012. The FDA-approved package insert for this narcotic states, "Patients who have not been receiving opioid analgesics should be started on ROXICODONE ® in a dosing range of 5 to 15 mg every 4 to 6 hours as needed for pain." Patient C had not been receiving outpatient opioids from August 19, 2010 to August 17, 2012. Respondent's initial dose to Patient B of 180 milligrams of Oxycodone IR 30 was double the recommended daily initial dose of 90 milligrams listed on the FDA-approved manufacturer insert for the drug.
8. Patient D is a 53 year old female who resides with Patient E, a 58 year old male. Respondent has prescribed nearly identical high-dose opioid therapy with multiple narcotic agents from January 1, 2011 to January 31, 2013. For Patient D, Respondent recently prescribed Methadone 10 milligrams (120 tablets), OxyCONTIN 80 milligrams (240 tablets) and Oxycodone IR 30 (250 tablets) simultaneously; and for Patient E,

Respondent recently prescribed Methadone 10 milligrams (180 tablets); OxyCONTIN 80 mg (240 tablets) and Oxycodone IR 30 (250 tablets) simultaneously.

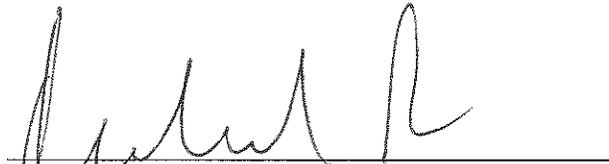
9. Respondent reported on February 22, 2013, to a Department of Health chief pharmacy compliance officer that Respondent has not lost any of his prescription pads or had them stolen in the past two years.
10. Respondent has a pattern of prescribing controlled substances to patients in a manner that does not meet the standards of acceptable practice.
11. Respondent has a pattern of prescribing narcotics without medical records.
12. Respondent has a pattern of prescribing narcotics without performing an examination of the patient.
13. Respondent has delivered care below accepted minimal standards, including the inappropriate prescription of narcotics.
14. Respondent is in violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 5-37-5.1(19) and (26) for his failure to adhere to minimum standards of acceptable practice and for violation of state laws concerning standards of practice and prescribing of controlled substances.
15. The public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

### **ORDER**

1. Based on the foregoing, the Director of the Department of Health has determined that the continuation of the physician license and controlled substances registration of Christopher Huntington, M.D., constitutes an immediate threat to the health, welfare and safety of the public.

2. Accordingly, the physician license to practice medicine in Rhode Island issued to Christopher Huntington, M.D., and the controlled substances registration to prescribe controlled substances issued to Christopher Huntington, M.D., are hereby suspended forthwith pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 42-35-14(c).
3. Based on the foregoing, the Director of the Department of Health has determined that the continuation of the medical license and controlled substances registration of Christopher Huntington, M.D., constitutes an immediate threat to the health, welfare and safety of the public.
4. The suspension of the Respondent's medical license and controlled substances registration shall continue until further Order of the Department of Health and until an administrative hearing or other resolution.
5. Respondent shall continue to be responsible for providing a proper medical home for any of his patients who need controlled substances prescribed to them, and shall continue to be responsible to transfer any medical records of such patients immediately upon request or when needed; and any failure to do so shall constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.
6. The Respondent is entitled to a hearing in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws § 42-35-14(c).

Signed this 8 day of March, 2013.



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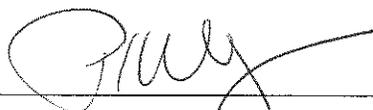
**CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of this Summary Suspension Order was ~~sent via hand delivery~~ <sup>hand delivered to address below</sup> to the Respondent, and was ~~forwarded~~ <sup>faxed</sup> to his attorney, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013, at the following addresses:

Christopher Huntington, M.D.  
298 West Exchange Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

418 Benefit St.  
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witness - 