

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH :
BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION :
AND NURSING EDUCATION :**

vs. :

Case #: C13-0821

**MICHELE LUKOWICZ :
LICENSE NO. RN46928 :**

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Michele Lukowicz (hereinafter "Respondent") has been licensed as a nurse pursuant to R.I. General Laws § 5-34-11 and holds license number RN46928.

Respondent is alleged to be in violation of R.I.G.L. § 5-34-24(2), (3), (4), (6)(v), (6)(vi) and (7) and Rules and Regulations for the Licensing of Nurses and Standard for the Approval of Basic Nursing Education Programs § 12.1(b), (c), (d), (f)(v), (f)(vi) and (g) in that Respondent has willfully or repeatedly violated the ethical principles governing the practice of nursing by diverting controlled substances from patients. Specifically, documents received by the Department from the Rhode Island State Police and other sources indicates that:

1. Between November 19, 2011 and December 15, 2011, Respondent was employed at Kent County Hospital.
2. Between November 19, 2011 and December 15, 2011, Respondent diverted twelve (12) doses of Dilaudid from the Pixus System while working in the Emergency Department at Kent County Hospital. On March 14, 2012 during an interview at the Rhode Island

Attorney General's Office, Respondent signed a statement admitting that she removed the doses of Dilaudid for her own use.

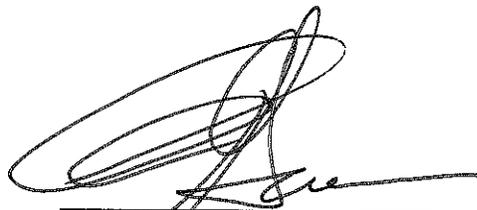
3. On October 17, 2013, Respondent was charged with twelve (12) counts of larceny of a controlled substance in violation of R.I.G.L. § 21-28.4.16.1. On June 25, 2014, Respondent pleaded guilty to one of the charges and was placed on two years probation.
4. Between July 25, 2012 and August 14, 2012, Respondent was employed at Eleanor Slater Hospital.
5. On August 10, 2012, a review of the patient records and medication administration records for the Male Forensic Unit at Eleanor Slater Hospital uncovered that thirteen (13) injectable vials of patient-specific Lorazepam and twelve (12) injectable vials of Lorazepam in the emergency supply were missing.
6. On August 14, 2012, the Rhode Island State Police responded to the Eleanor Slater Hospital for a larceny complaint. Between July 25, 2012 and August 10, 2012, it was determined that thirteen (13) 2 MG vials of Ativan were missing from medication bags and twelve (12) vials of Ativan were unaccounted for in the emergency supply. In addition, six (6) 2 MG vials of Ativan were tampered with. An investigation revealed that Respondent diverted the medication.
7. On or about August 15, 2012, Lieutenant John P. A'Vant and Special Agent Jason Giannelli of the Rhode Island FDA-OCI Task Force responded to the Male Forensic Unit at the Eleanor Slater Hospital for a larceny complaint. Patrick Kelley, a pharmacy inspector for the Department, informed them that the Administrators from the hospital believed that vials of Lorazepam and vials of Diphenhydramine had been tampered with. An investigation uncovered that, between July 11, 2012 and July 31, 2012, Respondent

ordered twelve (12) vials of Lorazepam from the pharmacy. No patient record or medication administration record identified any intramuscular doses of Lorazepam having been administered during that time frame. It was concluded that Respondent had diverted the medication

8. On or about September 12, 2012, a 2x2 inch gauze pad stained with what appeared to be blood, a rubber tourniquet, a syringe cap, a mostly empty vial of Benadryl, a mostly empty vial of Ativan were found in a supply closet in the Male Forensic Unit of the Eleanor Slater Hospital. Respondent's DNA was found on the gauze pad and on one of the tourniquets.
9. A criminal information was filed on June 26, 2014, Respondent pled guilty of Larceny of a Controlled Substance in violation of R.I.G.L. § 21-28-4.16.1, a felony. On June 26, 2014, Respondent pleaded guilty to such charge and was placed on two (2) years probation.

Based upon the foregoing, the Director of Health has determined that the continuation of the license of Respondent in Nursing constitutes an immediate danger to the health, welfare and safety of the public. Accordingly, the nursing license of Respondent is hereby **suspended effective July 5, 2014** pursuant to R.I. General Laws § 5-34-26. Said **Suspension** shall continue indefinitely pending further Order of the Department of Health. **A hearing on this matter is scheduled for July 14, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Room 401, Providence, Rhode Island 02908 before the Board of Nursing Registration and Nursing Education. For questions, please contact Amy Coleman, Esq., at (401)222-3916.**

Signed this 3rd of July, 2014.



Leonard Green
Deputy Director
R.I. Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 401
Providence, RI 02908-5097
Tel. (401) 222-2213
Fax (401) 222-6548

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the within SUMMARY SUSPENSION was sent by regular and certified mail to:

Michele Lukowicz
33 Woodmist Circle
Coventry, RI 02816

on this 3RD day of July 2014.



CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I have hand-delivered the within SUMMARY SUSPENSION to Michele Lukowicz at

_____ *Coventry* _____ on this 5
day of July _____, 2014.



Louis J. Capizano
Constable State of R.I.
License #6040