

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PROVIDENCE, SC.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH :
HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION :
BOARD OF PHARMACY :

v. :

LEO R. BLAIS, RPH :

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Leo R. Blais (“Respondent”) is a licensed pharmacist pursuant to *R.I. Gen. Laws 5-19.1-8* and holds license #RPH02605. Respondent is also the Pharmacist-In-Charge (“PIC”) at Apothecare Compounding Solutions (“Apothecare”), a licensed retail pharmacy located at 3303 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI. Respondent was also the pharmacist on duty at Apothecare during the time of the incidents set forth below.

On or about March 14, 2012 the Department of Health received notification regarding a possible dispensing error at Apothecare for a prescription dispensed to an eleven month old infant. The compounded prescription in question was labeled as “Omeprazole 2mg/mL”. The child received several doses of the medicine and as a result presented with abnormal symptoms. The infant’s parents brought the infant to their pediatrician as a result of the infant having “staring spells” and being unable to keep her eyes open. Upon examination, the pediatrician noted “altered mental status” and “constricted pupils”. The infant was then brought to the Hasbro Emergency Department. Upon examination at Hasbro Emergency Department, the treating physician took possession of the Omeprazole 2mg/mL suspension and had it tested at Rhode Island Hospital Toxicology Laboratory, where testing showed it to contain MORPHINE, a potent narcotic pain-killer and schedule II controlled substance pursuant to *R.I. Gen Laws 21-28-2.08*. The same prescription was then tested by the Rhode Island Department of Health Drug Toxicology Laboratory which confirmed the testing results of Rhode Island Hospital.

Respondent provided a copy of the compounding log for the Omeprazole prescription in question which demonstrated that Respondent was the verifying

pharmacist. The log further revealed that a second prescription was made using the same batch of Omeprazole 2mg/mL suspension. The second batch was dispensed to a 2 year old child who received 150mL of the Omeprazole 2mg/mL suspension. The child's caregiver indicated after administering the medication the child had been sleeping more than usual. Logs also confirmed that Respondent was the verifying pharmacist for the prescription. This batch also was determined to contain the powerful narcotic pain-killer, MORPHINE.

In addition, a site inspection of Apothecare revealed over one-hundred (100) articles in drug stock which did not have expiration dates on the label or were beyond the labeled expiration date. The items were deemed misbranded pursuant to *R.I. Gen Laws 21-31-15* and embargoed by Inspectors. Further inspection of Apothecare revealed compounding areas to be disorganized and disheveled making it difficult for a pharmacist to safely and effectively prepare prescriptions.

Based upon the foregoing, the Director of Health has determined that the continuation of the license of Leo R. Blais as a pharmacist constitutes an imminent threat to the health, welfare and safety of the public. Accordingly, the pharmacist license of Leo R. Blais is hereby suspended forthwith. Said suspension shall continue indefinitely pending further Order of the Department of Health.

The Respondent may request a hearing on this matter which will be scheduled within ten (10) days, if so requested.

Signed this 23 day of March, 2012



Michael Fine, MD
Director of Health
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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I have hand-delivered the within SUMMARY SUSPENSION to
Leo R. Blais, at 3303 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI
on this 23rd day of March, 2012.

Glenn Thomas