

1973; became Board recognized as a FNP in the State of Texas on August 6, 1999; and became Board recognized with Prescriptive Authorization as a FNP in the State of Texas on August 26, 1999.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

5/1973 - 6/1975	Staff Nurse	Methodist Hospital Lubbock, Texas
7/1975 - 7/1977	Staff Nurse	The Methodist Hospital Houston, Texas
8/1977 - 8/1981	Cardiovascular Nurse Specialist Medical Staff Assistant	William R. Gaston, MD Houston, Texas
8/1981 - 6/1985	Nurse Clinician & Senior Administrative Assistant	Baylor College of Medicine Department of Anesthesiology Houston, Texas
7/1985 - 10/1985	Office Nurse	Attiya S. Khan, MD Houston, Texas
10/1985 - 9/1986	Research Nurse	Alan J. Garber, MD Houston, Texas
10/1986 - 10/1996	Assistant Nurse / Network Manager, Charge Nurse	Memorial Hospital Memorial City Houston, Texas
11/1996 - 5/1999	Charge Nurse/Staff Nurse	St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital Houston, Texas
5/1999 - 8/1999	Graduate FNP	Memorial Clinical Associates Houston, Texas
8/1999 - Present	FNP	Memorial Clinical Associates Houston, Texas

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a FNP with Memorial Clinical Associates, Houston, Texas, and had been in this position for five (5) years and four (4) months.

7. On or about December 27, 2004, while employed as a FNP with Memorial Clinical Associates, Houston, Texas, Respondent failed to adequately document a thorough advanced assessment/physical exam of Patient AK, an 86-year-old female who was complaining of recent onset of intermittent swelling in her feet for the previous two (2) weeks. Although the patient presented with a chief complaint of swelling in her feet, the medical record reflected that she had also shown an eleven (11) pound weight gain since her last visit in August.

Respondent did not document an assessment/examination of the patient's abdomen or of the degree and type of edema that the patient was demonstrating. Patient AK informed Respondent that she was very active since she worked and was on her feet all day. Due to the patient's age and the fact that she was on her feet all day, Respondent prescribed a trial period of the diuretic Hydrochlorothiazide 25 mg, to attempt to reduce the swelling, but did not have baseline lab results drawn to determine the patient's electrolyte values.

8. On or about January 11, 2005, while employed as a FNP with Memorial Clinical Associates, Houston, Texas, Respondent again failed to complete and/or document a thorough advanced assessment/physical exam of the aforementioned Patient AK after the patient reported that she had been taking the diuretic until that morning and that her feet were still swelling, although some improvement was noted. The patient informed Respondent that she had stopped taking the diuretic that morning and that she thought the swelling was related to flax seed, which she was taking for constipation. Respondent did not complete and/or document an assessment of the patient's lungs, heart or abdomen, which would have required that Respondent palpate and auscultation the abdomen, or document the type and degree of edema to the patient's bilateral extremities. Respondent ordered that the patient have a Basic Metabolic Profile with Complete Blood Count performed and that she stop taking the first diuretic and then start a trial of Furosemide 20 mg. Two (2) weeks later, the patient obtained a second medical opinion, at which time it was discovered that the patient had a large complex pelvic and lower abdominal mass, estimated to be greater than 10 x 20 x 20 cm in size, and which was possibly ovarian carcinoma. Shortly after the discovery, the patient underwent a total hysterectomy and the tumor was removed.
9. In response to the incidents in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states that the patient had been a long standing patient at the practice and had frequently complained of constipation. During the visit of the first incident, the patient reported that she was typically on her feet all day long, and upon initial examination, Respondent states she found no congestive heart failure, no jugular venous distention, clear lung fields, and a regular heart rhythm without murmur or gallop. After a couple of weeks when the patient called stating that the medication was not working, the patient was asked to come into the clinic at Respondent's request, at which time lab work was drawn. Respondent indicates that she did not observe anything else of concern and that she heard nothing further from the patient after phoning the patient regarding the results of the lab work.
10. On or about January 20, 2005, through September 7, 2007, Respondent completed in excess of eighty-six (86) contact hours of advanced practice continuing education programs regarding primary care diagnoses and women's health care issues.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.

3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation of Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 217.11(1)(B),(1)(D),(3)(A)&(4)(A) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C)&(4).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 228086, heretofore issued to DEBORAH A. HODGE, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *et seq.* and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice nursing in compact states.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to DEBORAH A. HODGE, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order for appropriate notation.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include nurses. It shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies regarding Sexual Misconduct, Fraud, Theft and Deception, Nurses with Chemical Dependency, and Lying and Falsification. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address: <http://www.bon.state.tx.us/about/stipscourses.html>.*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete an academic course in advanced practice physical assessment with a minimum passing grade of not less than "C" or "Pass" if using a "Pass/Fail" grading system. The academic course SHALL BE for at least three (3) semester credit hours, including not less than one (1) semester credit hour, or three (3) clock hours per week, of clinical practicum. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Instruction SHALL BE provided by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. RESPONDENT SHALL perform physical assessments on live patients in the clinical practicum component; performing assessments on mock patients or mannequins WILL NOT

be accepted. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion of the course. RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course to satisfy this stipulation. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, available from the Board's website at <ftp://www.bon.state.tx.us/i17.pdf>, to the office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, and a copy will be mailed to me. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

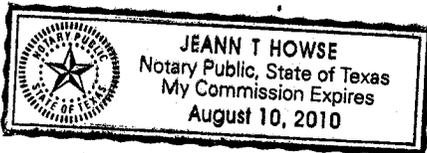
Signed this 15 day of May, 2008.

Deborah A. Hodge
DEBORAH A. HODGE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15 day of May, 2008.

SEAL

Jeann T. Howse
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



Approved as to form and substance.

Courtney D. Newton
Courtney D. Newton, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 19th day of May, 2008

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 15th day of May, 2008, by DEBORAH A. HODGE, Registered Nurse License Number 228086, and said Order is final.

Effective this 20th day of May, 2008.



Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN
Executive Director on behalf
of said Board