

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

07/14 - 01/15	Unknown	
02/15 - 03/15	Private Duty LPN	Brightstar Care Loveland, Colorado
04/15 - 02/16	LVN	Care Plus Home Health Woodville, Texas
03/16 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and had been in that position for eight (8) months.
7. On or about December 11, 2015, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for Patient M.M., Number CP718, Respondent failed to notify the physician when the patient had a blood pressure of 127/95, which was out of the ordered parameters for the patient and required notification to the physician. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from untreated hypertension.
8. On or about January 1, 2016, through February 3, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for Patient L.M., Number CP753, who was diagnosed with shortness of breath (SOB) and extreme SOB with exertion, Respondent failed to document patient respiratory rates in the medical record. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record that exposed the patient unnecessarily to the risk of harm in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to provide further care.
9. On or about January 4, 2016, through January 28, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for Patient W.P., Number CP797, Respondent inaccurately documented the patient's diagnosis and erroneously documented a medication, Vitamin D3 5000 units, which was never ordered for the patient, in the medical record. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record that exposed the patient unnecessarily to the risk of harm in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to provide further care.
10. On or about January 22, 2016, through February 14, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for Patient B.E., Number CP820, Respondent inaccurately documented pain assessments in the patient's medical record, when the assessment pain level was zero (0) and in the narrative Respondent documented the pain level at a three (3). Further, Respondent failed to document the patient's

vital signs for respirations. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record that exposed the patient unnecessarily to the risk of harm in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to provide further care.

11. On or about January 25, 2016, through February 8, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for Patient J.H., Number CP894, Respondent failed to follow physician orders to assess the patient's orthostatic hypotension vital signs, but instead, just took the patient's blood pressure while in the sitting position. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from undiagnosed/unassessed vital signs, which could have been out of parameters set by the physician.
12. On or about February 3, 2016, through February 17, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for Patient J.L., Number CP912, Respondent failed to document the patient's temperature while assessing the patient for signs and symptoms of an infected wound. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from a possible untreated infection and could have led to patient demise.
13. On or about February 3, 2016, through February 17, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for the aforementioned Patient J.L., Number CP912, Respondent erroneously documented that the patient received a new medication, Amoxicillin, when in fact there was no physician order for the medication. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record that exposed the patient unnecessarily to the risk of harm in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to provide further care.
14. On or about February 3, 2016, through February 17, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for the aforementioned Patient J.L., Number CP912, Respondent failed to notify the physician of changes in the condition of the patient's wound after the wound opened and started to ooze. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from a possible untreated infection.
15. On or about February 3, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for Patient J.H., Number CP812, Respondent failed to document the patient's respiratory rate. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to provide further care.
16. On or about February 19, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for Patient E.F., Number CP924, Respondent inaccurately documented in the patient's medical record that the patient's blood sugar out of range at 258, which would necessitate physician notification. Respondent then

submitted a corrected note, which documents the blood sugar at 250. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record that exposed the patient unnecessarily to the risk of harm in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to provide further care.

17. On or about March 1, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for Patient J.P., Number CP850, Respondent changed the patient's medication without a physician order from Captopril 12.5 mg to Carvedilol 12.5 mg. These are blood pressure medications, which are in two (2) different classes of medications. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to a risk of harm in that the patient did not receive the proper class of medication.
18. On or about March 1, 2016, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Care Plus Home Health, Woodville, Texas, and caring for the aforementioned Patient J.P., Number CP850, Respondent erroneously documented that the patient was being treated with Insulin, when the patient was not on Insulin. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record that exposed the patient unnecessarily to the risk of harm in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to provide further care.
19. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Eighteen (18), with regards to Patient M.M., Respondent states if an error was made it was an unintentional mistake, and if she failed to make a required notification, the failure was not intentional. With regards to Patient L.M., Respondent states she accurately documented assessments in the patient's medical records, and if an error was made, it was an unintentional mistake. With regards to Patient W.P., Respondent states she did not knowingly record an inaccurate assessment in the patient's medical record. With regards to Patient B.E., Respondent states if the assessment does not appear in the record, it was at most a mistake in failing to double check to make sure the required documentation was saved and visible. With regards to Patient J.H., Respondent states when notified of her mistakes, she worked diligently to correct past mistakes and complete all necessary corrections. With regards to Patient J.L., Respondent states she inaccurately documented wound care on this patient. With regards to Patient J.H. (CP812), Respondent states there were no intentional inaccuracies. With regards to Patient E.F., Respondent states she did not falsify any documentation. With regards to Patient J.P., Respondent states there were no intentional inaccuracies. Respondent is currently practicing nursing in Colorado.
20. Formal Charges were filed on January 27, 2017.
21. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on January 31, 2017.

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(s) of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(D),(1)(M),(1)(P)&(2) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4),(6)(A)&(6)(H).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 326011, heretofore issued to STEPHANIE LEIGH TIPTON.
5. Pursuant to Section 301.463(d), Texas Occupations Code, this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408, Texas Rules of Evidence, in civil or criminal litigation.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS** and Respondent's license(s) shall be placed in **INACTIVE** status.

Should RESPONDENT decide in the future to reactivate his/her license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, RESPONDENT SHALL be required to petition the Board for reactivation of the license and satisfy all then existing requirements for reactivation. Further, RESPONDENT'S reactivated license(s) SHALL BE subject to, at a minimum, the remedial education courses, work restrictions, supervised practice, and employer reporting which would have been requirements of this Order had Respondent not chosen to inactivate his/her nursing license(s).

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

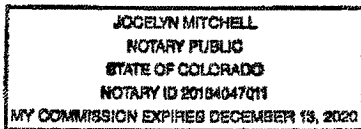
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, 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 possible revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance. I further understand that, should I decide in the future to reactivate my license(s), I will be required to satisfy, at a minimum, the additional requirements that would have been part of this Order had the license(s) not been placed in inactive status, as stated herein, as well as all then existing requirements for reactivation.

Signed this 16 day of February, 2018.

[Signature]
STEPHANIE LEIGH TIPTON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16 day of February, 2018.

SEAL



[Signature]
Notary Public in and for the State of Colorado

Approved as to form and substance.

Marc M. Meyer
Marc Meyer, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 19th day of February, 2018.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 16th day of February, 2018, by STEPHANIE LEIGH TIPTON, Vocational Nurse License Number 326011, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of March, 2018.



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