

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



In the Matter of Registered Nurse § AGREED
License Number 671341 issued §
to AUTUMN RENEE HAMILTON LESTER § ORDER

I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or is of record in the offices of the Texas Board of Nursing.
Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of AUTUMN RENEE HAMILTON LESTER, Registered Nurse License Number 671341, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on February 28, 2008, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license.
2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from College of the Mainland, Texas City, Texas, on May 1, 2000. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 25, 2000.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

07/00 - 07/06 RN University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston, Texas

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

08/06 - present unknown

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately six (6) years.
7. During March 2005 and June 2006, while employed with the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas, Respondent withdrew medications from the Pyxis Medication Dispensing System for patients, but failed to accurately and completely document the administration of this medication in the patients' Medication Administration Record and/or Nurses Notes, as follows:

Date	Patient's MR#	Physician's Order	Medication Dispensing System Record (Pyxis) Time and Quantity	Medication Administration Record	Nurses Notes
3/13/05	715567Q	hydrocodone 5/500mg 1-2 tabs q 4-6 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 1130 (2)	No Entry	1130 - med for c/o pain
3/13/05	697814Q	vicodin i-ii tabs q 4 hrs po	Vicodin 5/500 1253 (2)	No Entry	1300 - med for pain
3/13/05	548861Q	vicodin i-ii po q 4 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 1254 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
3/14/05	728381P	vicodin i-ii po q 4 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 1639 (2)	No Entry	1600 - Rep 1 pain
3/20/05	573953Q	vicodin i-ii po q 4 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 1148 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
3/21/05	735524Q	hydrocodone 5/500mg 1-2 tabs q 4 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 0059 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
3/22/05	737542Q	vicodin i-ii po q 4 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 2044 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
6/27/06	515596P	vicodin i-ii po q 4 hrs prn pain	Norco 5/325 tab 1514 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
6/27/06	831208Q	No Order	Norco 5/325 tab 1601 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
6/27/06	359673P	No Order	Norco 5/325 tab 1501 (2)	No Entry	No Entry

Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patients which could result in an overdose.

8. On or about June 27, 2006 and June 28, 2006, while employed with the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas, Respondent withdrew Norco 5/325mg from the Pyxis Medication Dispensing System for patients without a valid physician's order, as follows:

Date	Patient's MR#	Physician's Order	Medication Dispensing System Record (Pyxis) Time and Quantity	Medication Administration Record	Nurses Notes
6/27/06	831208Q	No Order	Norco 5/325 tab 1601 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
6/27/06	359673P	No Order	Norco 5/325 tab 1501 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
6/28/06	831208Q	No Order	Norco 5/325 tab 0730 (2)	Norco 3/325 0730	0730 - med for pain
6/28/06	831208Q	No Order	Norco 5/325 tab 1246 (2)	Norco 3/325 1300	1300 - med for pain

Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that the administration of Norco without a physician's order could result in the patient suffering from adverse reactions.

9. During March 2005 and June 2006, while employed with the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas, Respondent withdrew medications from the Pyxis Medication Dispensing System for patients, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of the unused portions of the medications, as follows:

Date	Patient's MR#	Physician's Order	Medication Dispensing System Record (Pyxis) Time and Quantity	Medication Administration Record	Wastage
3/13/05	548861Q	vicodin i-ii po q 4 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 1254 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
3/20/05	573953Q	vicodin i-ii po q 4 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 1148 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
3/21/05	735524Q	hydrocodone 5/500mg 1-2 tabs q 4 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 0059 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
3/22/05	737542Q	vicodin i-ii po q 4 hrs prn pain	Vicodin 5/500 2044 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
6/27/06	515596P	vicodin i-ii po q 4 hrs prn pain	Norco 5/325 tab 1514 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
6/27/06	831208Q	No Order	Norco 5/325 tab 1601 (2)	No Entry	No Entry
6/27/06	359673P	No Order	Norco 5/325 tab 1501 (2)	No Entry	No Entry

Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy and placed them in violation of Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).

10. On or about March 2005 and June 2006, while employed with the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas, Respondent misappropriated, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation of Norco from the facility and the patients thereof. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medications.
11. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care due to intemperate use of controlled substances or chemical dependency.

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 violations of Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(B)(C)(D) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A)(C),(6)(G)(H)&(10)(B)(C)&(11)(B).
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 671341, heretofore issued to AUTUMN RENEE HAMILTON LESTER, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional 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 a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS, 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 professional 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 Texas Board of Nursing 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 AUTUMN RENEE HAMILTON LESTER, 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/disciplinary_action.*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in medication administration. 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. The didactic portion of this course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course shall contain a minimum twenty-four (24) hour clinical component which is to be provided by the same Registered Nurse who provides the didactic portion of this course. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of medication administration only. In order for the course to be approved, the course's content shall include: a review of proper administration procedures for all standard routes; computation of drug dosages; the five (5) rights of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. 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, 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/disciplinary_action.*

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing documentation. 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. The course shall be a minimum of six (6)

hours in length of classroom time. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: nursing standards related to accurate and complete documentation; legal guidelines for recording; methods and processes of recording; methods of alternative record-keeping; and computerized documentation. RESPONDENT SHALL cause the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Board's office 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/disciplinary action](http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinary_action)

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND RESPONDENT MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT

SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.

(7) RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as RESPONDENT, but should be on the facility grounds and readily available to provide assistance and intervention if necessary. The supervising nurse shall have a minimum of two (2) years experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the Respondent is currently working. RESPONDENT SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(8) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT's capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered Nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

(9) RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of controlled substances, except

as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. **In the event that prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.**

(10) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the next three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month. For the next six (6) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT's place of employment at any time during the stipulation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random

drug screening during the stipulation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action by this Board. Failure to report for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result and may result in further disciplinary action by this Board.

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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.

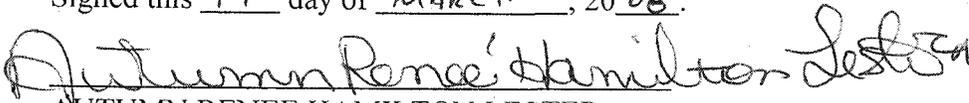
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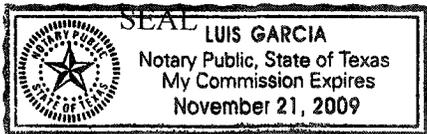
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

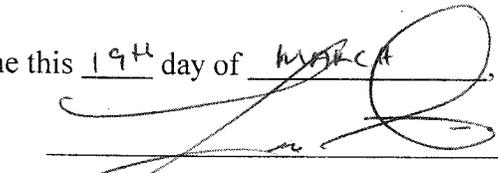
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 19th day of MARCH, 2008.


AUTUMN RENEE HAMILTON LESTER,
Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of MARCH, 2008.





Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 19th day of March, 2008, by AUTUMN RENEE HAMILTON LESTER, Registered Nurse License Number 671341, and said Order is final.

Effective this 17th day of April, 2008.


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