

IN THE MATTER OF: *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988*, and Christine Ortman, RN #0037210.

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: **Christine Ortman**

TAKE NOTICE that the Investigation Committee of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association ["SRNA"] (operating as the College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan) is recommending pursuant to section 28(3)(a) of *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988*, SS c R-12.2 [the "*Act*"] that the Discipline Committee hear and determine the complaint that you are guilty of professional incompetence and professional misconduct which occurred while you were on the Register and a member of the SRNA and held a license from the SRNA to practice registered nursing in Saskatchewan. The Discipline Committee, established in accordance with the *Act* and Bylaws will meet on March 14, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. to conduct a virtual hearing [the "**Hearing**"].

The particulars of your alleged professional incompetence and professional misconduct are set out in **Appendix A** which is attached to and forms part of this Notice of Hearing of Complaint.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT where the Discipline Committee finds you guilty of professional incompetence or professional misconduct, pursuant to section 31(1) of the *Act*, the Discipline Committee may:

- (a) order that the nurse be expelled from the association and that the nurse's name be struck from the register;
- (b) order that the nurse be suspended from the association for a specified period;
- (c) order that the nurse may continue to practise only under conditions specified in the order which may include, but are not restricted to, an order that the nurse:
 - (i) not do specified types of work;
 - (ii) successfully complete specified classes or courses of instruction;
 - (iii) obtain treatment, counselling or both;
- (d) reprimand the nurse; or
- (e) make any other order that to it seems just.

AND pursuant to section 31(2) of the *Act*, in addition to any order made pursuant to section 31(1), the Discipline Committee may order:

- (a) **that the nurse pay to the association within a fixed period:**
 - (i) **a fine in a specified amount;**
 - (ii) **the costs of the inquiry and hearing into the nurse's conduct and related costs, including the expenses of the investigation committee and the discipline committee; or**
 - (iii) **both of the things mentioned in subclauses (i) and (ii);**
- and
- (b) **where a nurse fails to make payment in accordance with an order pursuant to clause (a), that the nurse be suspended from the association.**

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to section 31(3) of the *Act*, the Discipline Committee will be sending a copy of an order made pursuant to sections 31(1) and 31(2) of the *Act* to you and to the person who made the report against you.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT at your own expense, you may choose to be represented by counsel or an agent at the Hearing before the Discipline Committee and have the right to call evidence and examine or cross-examine witnesses pursuant to sections 30(5) and (7) of the *Act*.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT if you fail to attend the Hearing, the Discipline Committee may, on proof of service of this Notice on you and/or your legal counsel, proceed with the Hearing in your absence pursuant to section 30(9) of the *Act*.

If you wish to admit the allegations contained in this Notice of Hearing, you and your legal counsel should contact legal counsel for the Investigation Committee of the SRNA at the earliest opportunity in order to implement the appropriate procedure.

DATED at Regina, Saskatchewan, this 8th day of February, 2023



Cindy Smith, RN, Executive Director
Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association
(operating as the College of Registered
Nurses of Saskatchewan)

APPENDIX A
Charges & Particulars

It is alleged that:

1. You have committed an act of professional incompetence as per section 25 of *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988*, in that, between May 28 and May 29, 2022, during your care of a pediatric patient who presented to the emergency department at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] after an accidental ingestion of infant liquid acetaminophen, you displayed a lack of knowledge, skill, or judgment of a nature or to an extent that demonstrates you are unfit to provide one or more services ordinarily provided as part of the practice of registered nursing. More particularly:
 - (a) You failed to thoroughly and appropriately assess and monitor the pediatric patient:
 - i. You failed to take vital signs on the patient during your 12-hour shift except for one temperature check at 2045 hrs;
 - ii. You did not perform a complete assessment during your 12-hour shift and only completed visual assessments of the patient.
 - (b) You failed to competently review and assess the Medication Administration Record (MAR), the physician's orders, and the nursing notes for the patient;
 - (c) On two occasions, when the SMART pump alarmed, you cleared the pump settings and reprogrammed the pump to infuse the 150 mg/kg loading dose of N-acetylcysteine instead of the 15 mg/kg maintenance dose;
 - (d) You failed to take the proper steps to be knowledgeable of the protocol for infusing N-acetylcysteine using the SMART pump by not reviewing the SK SMART Pump Program Parenteral Manual for N-acetylcysteine (monograph) at any time during your shift;
 - (e) You failed to recognize that the SMART pump was infusing the wrong dose of N-acetylcysteine including when adverse effects of nausea and vomiting occurred beyond the loading dose time-frame and despite anti-emetics being administered; and
 - (f) You administered 150 mg/kg instead of 15 mg/kg of N-acetylcysteine to the pediatric patient from 1936 hrs through the remainder of your 12-hour shift.

2. You have committed an act of professional misconduct as per section 26(2)(1) and (q) of *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988*, in that, between May 28 and May 29, 2022, during your care of a pediatric patient who presented to the emergency department at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] after an accidental ingestion of infant liquid acetaminophen, you failed to comply with the code of ethics of the association, and contravened provisions of *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988*, and the SRNA Bylaws.

BYLAWS, CODE OF ETHICS, PRACTICE STANDARDS & COMPETENCIES CONTRAVENED:

The SRNA Bylaws (2021)

Bylaw XIV Section 1: Code of Ethics of the Association

Bylaw XV Section 1: Standards and Competencies

Bylaw IV, Section 2(3)(a) and (b)

Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses (2017)

A. Providing Safe, Compassionate, Competent and Ethical Care

Nurses provide safe, compassionate, competent and ethical care.

Ethical responsibilities:

1. Nurses have a responsibility to conduct themselves according to the ethical responsibilities outlined in this document and in practice standards in what they do and how they interact with persons receiving care and other members of the health-care team.
6. Nurses practise "within their own level of competence and seek [appropriate] direction and guidance . . . when aspects of the care required are beyond their individual competence" (Licensed Practical Nurses Association of Prince Edward Island [LPNAPEI], Association of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island, & Prince Edward Island Health Sector Council, 2014, p. 3).

D. Honouring Dignity

Nurses recognize and respect the intrinsic worth of each person.

Ethical responsibilities:

6. Nurses utilize practice standards, best practice guidelines, policies and research to minimize risk and maximize safety, well-being and/or dignity for persons receiving care.

G. Being Accountable

Nurses are accountable for their actions and answerable for their practice.

Ethical responsibilities:

1. Nurses, as members of a self-regulating profession, practise according to the values and responsibilities in the *Code* and in keeping with the professional standards, laws and regulations supporting ethical practice.
7. Nurses practise within the limits of their competence. When aspects of care are beyond their level of competence, they seek additional information or knowledge, report to their supervisor or a competent practitioner and/or request a different work assignment. In the meantime, nurses remain with the person receiving care until another nurse is available.
8. Nurses are accountable for their practice and work together as part of teams. When the acuity, complexity or variability of a person's health condition increases, nurses assist each other (LPNAPEI et al., 2014).

SRNA Registered Nurse Practice Standards (2019)

Standard 1: Professional Responsibility and Accountability

The registered nurse is responsible for practicing safely, competently and ethically, and is accountable to the client, public, employer and profession.

The registered nurse upholds this standard by:

3. Recognizing the registered nurse scope of practice and individual competence limitations within the practice setting and seeking guidance as necessary.
5. Demonstrating effective collaborative practice, including communication, problem-solving strategies, decision-making and conflict resolution.
8. Challenging and taking action on unclear or questionable orders, decisions or actions made by other health care team members.
9. Practicing in accordance with agency policy and legislation, and in a timely manner, recognizes and reports near misses and errors (own and others), adverse events and critical incidents, and taking action to stop and minimize harm.

Standard 2: Knowledge-Based Practice

The registered nurse practices using evidence-informed knowledge, skills and judgment from diverse sources of knowledge and ways of knowing.

The registered nurse upholds this standard by:

12. Applying a knowledge base from nursing in the practice of registered nursing.
17. Anticipating potential health problems or issues for clients, the possible consequences and responding appropriately.

18. Proactively seeking new information and knowledge, employing a critical inquiry process and utilizing best practice in the provision of registered nursing care.

Standard 3: Ethical Practice

The registered nurse applies the principles in the current CNA *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses* when making practice decisions and using professional judgment. The registered nurse engages in critical inquiry to inform clinical decision-making, and establishes therapeutic caring and culturally-safe relationships with clients and the health care team.

The registered nurse upholds this standard by:

26. Practicing in accordance with the current CNA *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses*.

Standard 5: Self-Regulation

The registered nurse demonstrates an accountability to regulate themselves in accordance with their legislated scope of practice.

The registered nurse upholds this standard by:

49. Practicing in accordance with *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988*, other current relevant legislation, bylaws, scope of practice, standards, entry-level competencies, guidelines and employer policies.

SRNA Registered Nurse Entry-Level Competencies (2019)

1. Clinician

Registered nurses are clinicians who provide safe, competent, ethical, compassionate and evidence-informed care across the lifespan in response to client needs. Registered nurses integrate knowledge, skills, judgment and professional values from nursing and other diverse sources into their practice.

- 1.1 Provides safe, ethical, competent, compassionate, client-centred and evidence-informed nursing care across the lifespan in response to client needs.
- 1.2 Conducts a holistic nursing assessment to collect comprehensive information on client health status.
- 1.4 Analyses and interprets data obtained in client assessment to inform ongoing decision-making about client health status.
- 1.5 Develops plans of care using critical inquiry to support professional judgment and reasoned decision-making.
- 1.7 Anticipates actual and potential health risks and possible unintended outcomes.
- 1.8 Recognizes and responds immediately when client safety is affected.

- 1.9 Recognizes and responds immediately when client's condition is deteriorating.
- 1.11 Applies knowledge of pharmacology and principles of safe medication practice.

2. Professional

Registered nurses are professionals who are committed to the health and well-being of clients. Registered nurses uphold the profession's practice standards and ethics and are accountable to the public and the profession. Registered nurses demonstrate accountability, accepts responsibility and seeks assistance as necessary for decisions and actions within the legislated scope of practice.

- 2.1 Demonstrates accountability, accepts responsibility, and seeks assistance as necessary for decisions and actions within the legislated scope of practice.
- 2.3 Exercises professional judgment when using agency policies and procedures, or when practicing in their absence.

3. Communicator

Registered nurses are communicators who use a variety of strategies and relevant technologies to create and maintain professional relationships, share information and foster therapeutic environments

- 3.7 Communicates effectively in complex and rapidly-changing situations.
- 3.8 Documents and reports clearly, concisely, accurately and in a timely manner.

7. Advocate

Registered nurses are advocates who support clients to voice their needs to achieve optimal health outcomes. Registered nurses also support clients who cannot advocate for themselves.

- 7.1 Recognizes and takes action in situations where client safety is actually or potentially compromised.
- 7.2 Resolves questions about unclear orders, decisions actions or treatment.

9. Scholar

Registered nurses are scholars who demonstrate a lifelong commitment to excellence in practice through critical inquiry, continuous learning, application of evidence to practice and support of research activities.

- 9.1 Uses best evidence to make informed decisions.