

**IN THE MATTER OF *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988* and**

**Christine Ortman, RN # 0037210**

**ORDER**

On March 14, 2022, a discipline hearing was held electronically to inquire into two complaints alleging professional incompetence and professional misconduct against Christine Ortman. Titli Datta appeared as legal counsel for the Investigation Committee. Ronni Nordal, K.C. appeared for Ms. Ortman.

By a Notice of Hearing dated February 8, 2023, Ms. Ortman was charged with the following:

- 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 [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 [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.

The hearing proceeded on the basis of an Agreed Statement of Facts signed by both counsel on March 8, 2023. At paragraph 46 of the Agreed Statement of Facts:

**46. Ms. Ortman admits that her conduct between May 28 and 29, 2022, as outlined in the Notice of Hearing attached at Tab 1 and this Agreed Statement of Facts constitutes professional incompetence and professional misconduct as defined in sections 25, 26(2)(1) and (q) of *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988*, and the delineated provisions of the SRNA Bylaws, *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses*, and *SRNA Registered Nurse Practice Standards, 2019* as outlined in the Notice of Hearing.**

Counsel presented a Joint Submission Regarding Proposed Penalty to the Discipline Committee which broadly consisted of the following:

- (a) A suspension for one month.
- (b) Ms. Ortman shall complete certain educational courses.
- (c) Following completion of the suspension, Ms. Ortman would be subject to the condition that she practice under direct supervision of a registered nurse in relation to the administration of IV medications delivered by SMART pump and the administration of all medication to pediatric patients within the acute care facility of [REDACTED]
- (d) Payment of costs in the amount \$23,000.00 on or before March 31, 2024.

The Discipline Committee heard submissions regarding the start date for the suspension as there was no agreement on that issue. The Investigation Committee argued that the suspension should be effective as of the date of Discipline Committee Order or at most, seven days from the date of the Discipline Committee Order. The Investigation Committee further submitted that if the start of the suspension was delayed, Ms. Ortman should be subject to direct supervision of administration of IV medications delivered by SMART Pump and administration of all medication to pediatric patients.

Ms. Ortman submitted a letter dated March 8, 2023 from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The letter in its entirety is as follows:

**To whom it may concern**

**Surgical program at [REDACTED] operates 10 months of the year. Typically, no surgical procedures are booked in the months of July and August.**

**With one of the 2 OR nurses moving to a different position next week and Christine Ortman being the only OR nurse at this time, there is a strong possibility that we may have to cancel booked procedures in the month of March till June, should Christie be unable to work.**

Ms. Ortman submitted that given the information set out in [REDACTED] letter, a delay of the suspension is in the public interest and necessary not to benefit Ms. Ortman but essentially, to provide the least disruption to patients served by [REDACTED]. Ms. Ortman submitted that the start time of the one month suspension should be delayed to July or August 2023.

After considering the evidence and the submissions made, the Discipline Committee makes the following Order:

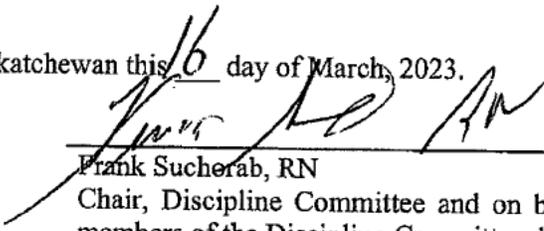
1. Pursuant to section 31(1)(b) of *The Registered Nurses Act, 1988* (the "Act"), Christine Ortman shall be suspended for the period of one month effective June 1, 2023.
2. Pursuant to section 31(1)(e) of the Act, Ms. Ortman shall satisfactorily complete the following courses and bear the costs of the following courses:

- (a) ENPC course prescribed and offered by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (the "SHA") within the deadline and in accordance with the terms, if any, prescribed by the SHA.
  - (b) John Collins Consulting – Critical Thinking in Nursing (CTNRN01).
  - (c) Saskatchewan Polytechnic Course – Safe Medication Administration (PHAR-1608).
  - (d) Saskatchewan Polytechnic Course – Health Assessment (NRSG-104). CRNS will assist in arranging for this course to be offered to Ms. Ortman as a stand-alone course.
3. Within 30 days of her completion of each of the courses outlined above, Ms. Ortman shall provide to the Registrar a written certificate or confirmation from each course provider stating:
  - (a) That Ms. Ortman has successfully completed the required course.
  - (b) Regarding the John Collins Consulting course, the course provider should also confirm that a copy of the Agreed Statement of Facts, Joint Submission of Penalty documents and the Order of the Discipline Committee has been received and reviewed.
4. Following completion of the suspension and pursuant to section 31(1)(c) of the Act, Ms. Ortman may continue to practice subject to the condition that she shall be under the direct supervision of a Registered Nurse in relation to:
  - (a) The administration of IV medications delivered via smart pump; and
  - (b) Administration of all medication for pediatric patients within the acute care facility at [REDACTED]
5. The condition of direct supervision shall remain in place until Ms. Ortman provides proof of successful completion of all of the courses set out at paragraph 2 to the Registrar.

6. Pursuant to section 31(2)(a)(ii) of the Act, Ms. Ortman shall pay the costs of the inquiry and hearing which shall be fixed in the amount of \$23,000.00. The costs shall be paid on or before March 31, 2024. Failing payment, Ms. Ortman shall be suspended from the Association pursuant to section 31(2)(b) of the Act until payment of the costs is made in full.

Comprehensive written reasons will follow. The purpose of issuing the Order now is to provide Ms. Ortman with certainty and to give [REDACTED] sufficient advance notice to plan given Ms. Ortman's suspension for the month of June 2023.

Dated at the City of Martensville, Saskatchewan this 16 day of March, 2023.

  
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Frank Sucherab, RN

Chair, Discipline Committee and on behalf of the members of the Discipline Committee, being:

Len Wegner, RN

Anne Kokesch, RN

Jodi Romanow, RN

Sophie Grahame, Public Representative