



STATE OF MAINE
 BOARD OF NURSING
 158 STATE HOUSE STATION
 AUGUSTA, MAINE
 04333-0158

JOHN ELIAS BALDACC
 GOVERNOR

MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N.
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN RE: LINE G. ELLIS, R.N.)
 a/k/a Line Gay)
 of Manchester, Maine)
 License #R027646)

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
 FOR VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
 OF LICENSE**

INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement (“Agreement”) regarding Line G. Ellis’s license to practice registered professional nursing in the State of Maine. The parties to this Agreement are Line G. Ellis (“Ms. Ellis” or “Licensee”), Maine State Board of Nursing (“Board”) and the Office of the Attorney General, State of Maine. The parties enter into this Agreement pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A (1-A) (C), 10 M.R.S.A. §§ 8003 (A-1) (4), 8003 (5) (B) and 10 M.R.S.A. § 8003 (5) (D). The parties reached this Agreement on the basis of: 1) Board Notice of Provider Report dated May 10, 2010, with information from Belgrade Regional Health Center (“BRHC”) dated April 30, 2010; 2) Board Complaint for Failure to Respond dated July 7, 2010; 3) Ms. Ellis’s response received July 12, 2010; 4) Board Investigative Report from Mary MacMaster dated July 29, 2010; and 5) Supplemental Information from BRHC dated August 17, 2010.

FACTS

1. Line G. Ellis has been licensed as a registered professional nurse to practice in Maine since August 1984.
2. Discipline History: Licensee surrendered her nursing license by Consent Agreement with the Board in August 1998 for drug diversion and admitted substance abuse. Her license was reinstated on probation in October 2001. After successfully meeting the conditions of said Agreement, the Board terminated her probation in December 2004.
3. Line G. Ellis’s employment at BRHC ended when she resigned on April 25, 2010 during the course of the facility’s administrative investigation regarding a suspected instance of falsifying a prescription. The summary of events is included in the April 30, 2010 correspondence from BRHC [Exhibit 1].
4. Board Investigator Mary MacMaster obtained prescriptive history regarding Ms. Ellis’s adult children. This prescription information indicated that several prescriptions for Hydrocodone were prescribed by Vicki Chapman, a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Belgrade Clinic. A follow-up interview with Vicki Chapman revealed that she had never prescribed Hydrocodone to any of Ms. Ellis’s children. Pharmacy documentation indicated that at least one of the above-noted prescriptions for Kevin Gay, the Licensee’s middle son, was picked up and signed for with the signature “Line Ellis.”
5. During an August 4, 2010 interview at the Board Office with Investigator Mary MacMaster, Line G. Ellis admitted to FAXing the above-referenced prescription order from Belgrade Regional Health Center to RiteAid in Manchester, ME and later picking it up. Ms. Ellis also admitted to fraudulently obtaining prescriptive drugs for about a year; however, her children’s prescription histories indicate that this activity of fraudulent prescriptions has been going on since at least June 2008.



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OFFICES LOCATED AT: 161 CAPITOL ST., AUGUSTA, ME
<http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/>

PHONE: (207) 287-1133

FAX: (207) 287-1149

6. Ms. Ellis denies selling or using drugs for her personal use; she states she has been acquiring it for her husband's pain management.
7. Line G. Ellis wishes to resolve this Complaint by entering into this Consent Agreement to surrender her registered professional nurse license and waives her right to a hearing before the Board.

AGREEMENT

8. The Maine State Board of Nursing will accept Ms. Ellis's offer to voluntarily surrender her registered professional nurse license.
9. Line G. Ellis understands that based upon the above-stated facts, this document imposes discipline regarding her license to practice as a registered professional nurse in the State of Maine. The grounds for discipline for violations are under 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(2)(A), (2)(F), (2)(H) and Chapter 4, sections 1(A)(1), 1(A)(6), 1(A)(8) and Chapter 4, sections 3(K), 3(P) and 3(Q) of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing. Specifically, the violations are:
 - a. M.R.S.A. § 2105-A (2)(A). The practice of fraud or deceit in connection with service rendered within the scope of the license issued. Ms. Ellis acquired drugs by deception by altering written prescriptions. (See also Rule Chapter 4, Section 1.A.1)
 - b. M.R.S.A. § 2105-A (2)(F). Unprofessional Conduct. Ms. Ellis engaged in unprofessional conduct because she violated a standard of professional behavior that has been established in the practice for which she is licensed. (See also Rule Chapter 4, Section 1.A.6)
 - c. M.R.S.A. § 2105-A (2)(H). A violation of this chapter or a rule adopted by the Board. (See also Rule Chapter 4, Section 1.A.6)
 - d. Rule Chapter 4, Section 3. Unprofessional Conduct: *"Nursing behavior which fails to conform to legal standards of the nursing profession, and which could reflect adversely on the health and welfare of the public shall constitute unprofessional conduct and shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:*
 - 1) Chapter 4, Section 3(K). Ms. Ellis inaccurately recorded, falsified and altered a health care provider record.
 - 2) Chapter 4, Section 3(P). Ms. Ellis diverted drugs from a health care provider.
 - 3) Chapter 4, Section 3(Q). Ms. Ellis possessed, obtained and administered prescription drugs to any person, including self, except as directed by a person authorized by law to prescribe drugs.
10. Line G. Ellis understands and agrees that her license will remain on surrender status and subject to the terms of this Agreement indefinitely until and unless the Board, at Ms. Ellis's written request, votes to reinstate her license. Ms. Ellis agrees and understands that if the Board reinstates her license, it will be for a probationary period.
11. The State of Maine is a "party state" that has adopted the Nurse Licensure Compact ("Compact"), which is set out in Chapter 11 of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing.

The State of Maine is Ms. Ellis's "home state" of licensure and primary state of residence, which means she has declared the State of Maine as her fixed permanent and principle home for legal purposes; her domicile. Other party states in the Compact are referred to as "remote states," which means party states other than the home state that have adopted the Compact. Ms. Ellis understands this Consent Agreement is subject to the Compact.

12. Line G. Ellis understands that she does not have to execute this Consent Agreement and has the right to consult with an attorney before entering into the Agreement.
13. Line G. Ellis shall not work or volunteer in any capacity for a health care provider as defined by Title 24 M.R.S.A. § 2502 (2) or in any position holding herself out as a registered professional nurse or with the designation "R.N.," including in a veterinarian's office, while her nursing license is surrendered. In addition, Ms. Ellis is not to seek employment where the handling or dispensing of drugs is part of the job responsibility.
14. This Agreement is a public record within the meaning of 1 M.R.S.A. § 402 and will be available for inspection and copying by the public pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 408.
15. Modification of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by all parties.
16. This Agreement is not subject to review or appeal by the Licensee, but may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court.
17. Line G. Ellis affirms that she executes this Agreement of her own free will.
18. This Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last necessary signature below.

I, LINE G. ELLIS, R.N., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING CONSENT AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY, KNOWINGLY, AND INTELLIGENTLY AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND.

sic
DATED: 8/2/10

corrected 9/2/10

sic 9/2/10
DATED: 8/2/10

sic 9/2/10
DATED: 8/2/10

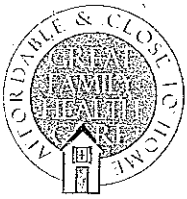
Line Ellis
LINE G. ELLIS, R.N.

FOR THE MAINE STATE
BOARD OF NURSING

Myra Broadway
MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N.
Executive Director

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

John H. Richards
JOHN H. RICHARDS
Assistant Attorney General



BELGRADE REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER

4 Clement Way • Belgrade, Maine 04917 • Telephone: (207) 495-3323 • Fax: (207) 495-3353
Mailing Address: PO Box 274 • Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918

EXHIBIT
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RECEIVED
MAY -3 2010 (Mrs)
MAINE STATE
BOARD OF NURSING

April 30, 2010

Myra Broadway, J.D., M.S., R.N.
Executive Director
Maine Board of Nursing
158 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0158

**RE: Maine Health Security Act Provider Report Regarding Line Ellis, R.N.,
Maine License Number R027646**

Dear Ms. Broadway:

In accordance with the Maine *Health Security Act*, 24 M.R.S.A. §2506, we are reporting an incident regarding one of our employees, Line Ellis, RN, who resigned during the course of an administrative investigation of a suspected instance of falsifying a prescription.

The following is a summary of events leading to our decision to place Ms. Ellis on administrative leave and her subsequent decision to resign her position at the Belgrade Regional Health Center (the "Health Center"):

Friday, April 23, 2010

Noel Genova, MA, PA-C, Director of the Maine Medical Association's Chronic Pain Project, had been consulted by the Health Center to do a chart review and presentation focusing on the Health Center's protocols in treating patients on chronic pain medications. Her presentation over the lunch hour was attended by providers Vickie Chapman, APRN, Amy Madden, MD, Matt Colaluca, PA-C, and nurses Line Ellis, RN, Lori McIntosh, LPN, Donna Nale, RN, Nancy Flewelling, LPN, and myself, Practice Manager of the Health Center.

During the presentation, Ms. Genova encouraged our providers to use Maine's Prescription Monitoring Program (the "PMP"), and discussion followed concerning the PMP. At the end of the meeting, some providers and nurses asked Ms. Genova for assistance accessing the PMP.

part of

HealthReach
Community Health Centers

Belgrade Regional Health Center
Bethel Family Health Center
Bingham Area Health Center
Lovejoy Health Center

Madison Area Health Center
Mt. Abram Regional Health Center
Rangeley Family Medicine
Richmond Area Health Center

Sheepscot Valley Health Center
Strong Area Health Center
Western Maine Family Health Center
www.HealthReachCHC.org

Following the meeting at around 1:30 PM, Mr. Genova helped some nurses and then Ms. Chapman access the program. Ms. Genova and Ms. Chapman were looking at Ms. Chapman's prescribing history when Ms. Chapman saw the name of a person she recognized as a relative of Ms. Ellis listed among the persons to whom Ms. Chapman had recently prescribed narcotics prescriptions. However, Ms. Chapman had not seen Ms. Ellis' relative in a long time, and she definitely had not recently prescribed Hydrocodone for this person, as reflected in her history.

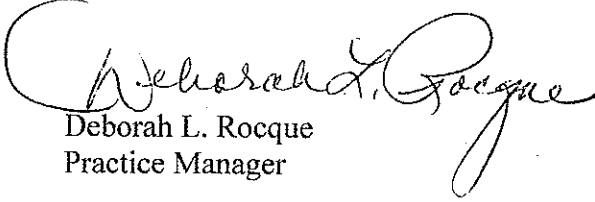
Since I had already left for the day, Ms. Chapman showed Dr. Madden what she had found. Later, Ms. Chapman called the Rite Aid pharmacy in Manchester where, according to Ms. Chapman's prescription history, the prescription for Ms. Ellis' relative had been filled. Rite Aid faxed to the Health Center a copy of the "prescription" which was actually a fax cover sheet with the medication, dosage, patient's name and date of birth, and what looked like Ms. Chapman's signature. At the top of the fax was the date, 04/14/2010, and the Health Center fax number indicating it was faxed from the Health Center on that date at 11:45 a.m. Ms. Chapman did not work at Health Center the week that the fax was sent from the Health Center to Rite Aid. However, Ms. Ellis did work at the Health Center the morning the fax was sent, and she left around noon to go to a meeting. After comparing the handwriting on the prescription fax to samples of Ms. Ellis' handwriting, we concluded that it looked as though the text of the handwritten fax had been written by Ms. Ellis. The handwriting on the fax was also virtually identical to a similar fax cover sheet for a Hydrocodone prescription sent to Walmart in September 2009 that Walmart faxed back to the Health Center because it lacked a patient name and only included a date of birth, which turned out to be Ms. Ellis' date of birth. At the time, Ms. Ellis denied having any knowledge of the fax, and the Health Center concluded it could not reasonably conclude that Ms. Ellis had sent the fax. Ms. Ellis was not aware of the discovery of the Rite Aid fax when she left for the weekend of April 24-25, 2010.

Dr. Madden called me on Friday evening, April 23, 2010, to let me know what had happened. Saturday morning (April 24) and again on Sunday (April 25), I spoke with Connie Coggins, President and CEO of HealthReach Community Health Centers with which the Belgrade Regional Health Center is affiliated. Given the nature and severity of the incident, and the similarity between this situation and a similar incident that took place last fall, Ms. Coggins instructed me to call Ms. Ellis and advise her that she was being suspended from work pending the Health Center's investigation into the incident.

I then contacted Ms. Ellis Sunday (April 25) afternoon to interview her regarding the incident. Ms. Ellis neither admitted nor denied faxing the script to Rite Aid. I gave Ms. Ellis the opportunity to explain her view of this incident, but she elected not to discuss the matter with me. Ms. Ellis then called me back shortly thereafter that same day, and stated to me that she was resigning from her employment at the Health Center while our investigation of the incident was still pending.

Should you require any additional information regarding this incident, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Deborah L. Rocque
Practice Manager

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