



DISCIPLINARY COMPLAINT RESOLUTION AGREEMENT
pursuant to section 55(2)(a.1) of the *Health Professions Act*

BETWEEN:

ARDELLE LOWE, #62,555
(the “Regulated Member”)

and

The College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta
(“CARNA”)

A Disciplinary Complaint Resolution Agreement (“DCRA”) was executed between the Regulated Member and CARNA, dated with effect **April 12, 2021**. The below constitutes a summary of such DCRA:

Through a DCRA with CARNA, ARDELLE LOWE, #62,555 (the “Regulated Member”), acknowledged and admitted that their behaviour constituted unprofessional conduct. Particulars of the Regulated Member’s unprofessional conduct arises from three (3) complaints to CARNA and includes the following:

- The Regulated Member failed to demonstrate adequate professional judgment and failed to adequately monitor Patient 1, who was considered high risk due to previous c-section procedures and complained of incisional pain, while the nurse in charge. In addition, the Regulated Member failed to adequately respond to Patient’s 1’s complaints of incisional pain and failed to prioritize the care of Patient 1, who was considered high risk due to previous c-section procedures and complained of incisional pain, while the nurse in charge, including failing to follow the Obstetrical Triage Acuity Scale to identify and respond to risks.
- The Regulated Member failed to communicate effectively and respectfully with clients and other members of the health care team to enhance client care and safety outcomes, while the nurse in charge. Furthermore, the Regulated Member failed to collaborate with another RN and failed to effectively supervise others to enhance client outcomes, specifically when another RN reported Patient 1’s incisional pain, while the nurse in charge. Finally, the Regulated Member failed to accurately and contemporaneously document her care of Patient 1 while the nurse in charge, including inaccurately documenting communication with the attending physician about the patient’s pain.

- The Regulated Member failed to adequately prioritize the care of her patients and failed to demonstrate adequate professional judgment when she was sitting at her desk in a public area with her eyes closed for a period of time. In addition, the Regulated Member failed to adequately assess her fitness to practice during her shift.
- The Regulated Member failed to demonstrate adequate judgment and failed to ensure a patient's right to confidentiality and privacy when they printed off nursing notes.
- The Regulated Member failed to adequately respond to and prioritize the care of Patient 2, who was in active labour and presented as a high-risk patient due to her age and condition, including elevated blood pressure readings. In addition, the Regulated Member failed to adequately classify the fetal heart rate tracings of Patient 2 for approximately four hours while she was in active labour and failed to adequately assess and monitor Patient 2, when their blood pressure escalated and remained escalated. Finally, the Regulated Member failed to adequately and contemporaneously document her care of Patient 2.
- The Regulated Member failed to communicate and documents appropriately, leading her colleagues, including the patient's physician, to believe she had acted outside of her scope of practice by manually rotating a fetus' head during a sterile vagina exam for Patient 2, who was in active labour.

The Regulated Member agreed to complete course work on professionalism, leadership, documentation and assessment. In addition, the Regulated Member agreed to complete 800 hours of Performance Evaluations and be suspended for a period of time from practicing as a registered nurse. Conditions shall appear on the CARNA register and on the Regulated Member's practice permit.