



# News Release

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## Whatcom Co. nurse suspended in death of resident at long-term care facility

**OLYMPIA** — The Nursing Commission immediately suspended a Whatcom County registered nurse’s license for causing the death of a resident at a long-term care facility.

Charges state that Tina M. Brightwell (RN00069951) administered 10 times the amount of morphine authorized in the physician’s order to a patient, killing the patient. This incident occurred less than two months after Brightwell was placed on probation following another resident’s death where nursing errors were a major contributing factor.

Brightwell has 20 days to contest the suspension. She cannot work as a registered nurse until the charges are resolved.

The documents in this case can be seen online by clicking “[look up a health care provider](#)” on the [Department of Health’s website](#). Copies of the documents can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. That number can also be used to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

The Nursing Commission protects public health and safety in Washington by regulation of nursing practice. The commission establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency and discipline.

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