



News Release

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State revokes, suspends licenses, certifications, registrations of health care providers

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has revoked or suspended the licenses, certifications, or registrations of health care providers in our state. The department has also immediately suspended the credentials of people who have been prohibited from practicing in other states.

The department’s Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency’s website. Click on “[Look up a healthcare provider license](#)” in the “How Do I?” section of the [Department of Health home page](#) (www.doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider’s license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Chelan County

In May 2015 the secretary of health indefinitely suspended the registered nursing assistant credential of **Timothy Alan Hall** (NA60275966). Hall pleaded guilty to unlawful imprisonment domestic violence and to fourth-degree assault-domestic violence in 2014.

Clark County

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission suspended the registered nurse and advanced registered nurse practitioner credentials of **Deena Michele Chamlee** (RN00140546, AP30006115).. with being unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety. Charges say Chamlee’s communication with former work colleagues and with a commission investigator “exhibited a concerning level of disorganized thinking and paranoid delusions.”

Disciplinary actions

July 13, 2015

Page 2

King County

In May 2015 the Dental Commission withdrew a statement of charges against dentist **Robert E. Buda** (DE00007787).

In May 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program entered into an agreement with **Shari Joy Cassara** under which she agreed to cease and desist from the practice of nursing and pay a \$1,000 fine. Cassara used the letters “RN” on her office door plate, name tag, and business cards, despite not having a registered nurse license.

In May 2015 the secretary of health suspended the certified nursing assistant credential of **Lyndsey F. Ansara** (NC10078171) for at least four years. Ansara was convicted of unlawful possession of a controlled substance (heroin), second-degree identity theft, and second-degree theft in 2015. She was also charged with first-degree criminal impersonation.

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the registered nurse credential of **Nicole Ann Buntin** (RN60405445). Buntin’s Nevada license was placed on probation when she didn’t take required drug tests after previously testing positive for morphine.

In May 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program ordered **Xiao Hong Zhao** to cease and desist from the practice of massage and pay a \$1,000 fine. Zhao did not have a license to practice massage yet offered to perform full body massages.

Kitsap County

In May 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program entered into an agreement with **Xijia Li** under which she agreed to cease and desist from the practice of massage and pay a \$500 fine. Li gave clients massages without a license.

In May 2015 the Occupational Therapy Board indefinitely suspended the occupational therapist credential of **Maryellen Boisen**, also known as Mary Ellen Meadows (OT00001900). She didn’t comply with an agreement to participate in a substance abuse monitoring program.

Pierce County

In May 2015 the secretary of health suspended the certified nursing assistant credential of **John K. Kananda** (NC60270106) for at least one year. Kananda didn’t properly monitor two patients’ vital signs.

In May 2015 the Medical Commission entered into an agreement with physician **Kenneth J. Ritter** (MD00005834) that requires him to surrender his credential at the end of 2015. Ritter didn’t meet the standard of care in his documentation practices. He kept hand-written and mostly illegible notes, and prescribed controlled substances and legend drugs without proper documentation. Until he retires, Ritter will use the improved dictation system implemented in early 2015 for patient charting.

Disciplinary actions

July 13, 2015

Page 3

In May 2015 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program entered into an agreement with chemical dependency professional **Scott E. Bateman** (CP60026524) that first suspended his credential and then placed him on probation for at least 18 months. He must complete continuing education in professional boundaries. Bateman began a romantic relationship with a client three to four months after completing her drug and alcohol assessment. He fathered a child with her.

In May 2015 the Dental Commission suspended the credential of dentist **Roy Stuart Schwartz** (DE00004130) for five years. Schwartz used his federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration to order and buy controlled substances for a dentist who had no registration for about five years. Schwartz knew the other dentist had no registration, and allowed the unregistered dentist to move the controlled substances to locations where Schwartz had no doctor-patient relationships. Schwartz didn't cooperate with federal and state investigators. He didn't store controlled substances properly or keep an adequate inventory and records. The DEA suspended Schwartz's registration for a year and restricted it until he completes additional education.

In May 2015 the Massage Program withdrew a statement of charges against massage practitioner **Anthony T. Blake** (MA00008819).

Skagit County

In May 2015 the secretary of health suspended the certified nursing assistant credential of **Heide M. Lomuntad** (NC10004674) for at least four years. Lomuntad was convicted of first-degree criminal mistreatment in 2014. The state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) found Lomuntad neglected a vulnerable adult. DSHS prohibited her from being employed in caring for or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

Snohomish County

In May 2015 the Surgical Technologist Program entered into an agreement with surgical technologist **Amy F. Vanlant** (ST00003684) that suspends her credential for at least a year. Vanlant diverted narcotics and replaced the medication with saline at a clinic where she worked.

In May 2015 the secretary of health suspended the registered nursing assistant credential of **Nicholas Joshua Clutcher** (NA60088596) for at least five years. Clutcher pleaded guilty to a 2011 second-degree assault charge in 2013.

Spokane County

In May 2015 the Dental Commission charged dentist **Rahil Akhtar** (DE60078325) with unprofessional conduct and immediately suspended his credential. Akhtar's Idaho license was revoked after he pleaded guilty to two federal counts of acquiring and obtaining a controlled substance by misrepresentation, fraud, and deception.

In May 2015 the secretary of health indefinitely suspended the registered nursing assistant credential of **Elizabeth A. Lien** (NA00101060). She didn't respond to a Department of Health investigator's request for an explanation about a complaint filed against her.

Yakima County

In April 2015 the secretary of health suspended the certified nursing assistant credential of **Jessica M. Aguilar** (NC10092937) for at least two years. Aguilar withdrew \$100 from a vulnerable patient's bank account without the patient's consent or permission. The state Department of Social and Health Services determined that Aguilar financially exploited a vulnerable adult. She can't be employed in caring for or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

In May 2015 the secretary of health indefinitely suspended the certified nursing assistant credential of **Christinajo O. Nunez** (NC10056878). Nunez misrepresented the value of two rings and sold them to a patient at a residential facility where she worked.

In May 2015 the Medical Assistant Program entered into an agreement with certified medical assistant **Sharon Elizabeth Metz** (CM60383589) under which Metz surrendered her credential and agreed not to resume practice. Metz posed as other medical assistants and telephoned in fraudulent prescriptions for herself, using the names of doctors at the clinic where she worked.

Out of State

California: In May 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program entered into an agreement with **Wanjun Min** under which Min agreed to cease and desist from the practice of massage and pay a \$1,000 fine. Min performed massages on clients despite not having a license.

Arizona: In May 2015 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Charles Thomas Ihle** (RN60499967) with unprofessional conduct and immediately suspended his credential. Ihle's Arizona license had been revoked. He didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring program, and was convicted in Arizona of aggravated driving or actual physical control while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs. On his Washington application, Ihle said he hadn't had his health profession credentials suspended by any state.

Indiana: In May 2015 the Nursing Commission immediately suspended the registered nurse credential of **Diane Hope Holzman** (RN60273119) after her Colorado license was suspended.

Montana: In May 2015 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Loredana Mae Ratliff** (RN60529719) with unprofessional conduct and immediately suspended her credential. Ratliff's Montana license was suspended in 2015 in connection with drug and alcohol issues.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).