



News Release

For immediate release: April 15, 2016

(16-044)

Contact: [Julie Graham](#), Strategic Communications Office

360-810-1628

Benton County pharmacist suspended on charges of substance use

OLYMPIA -- The Pharmacy Commission immediately suspended the credential of Benton County pharmacist Benjamin David Walling (PH60506562) pending further proceedings.

Charges state that while at work, Walling appeared impaired, confused, and seemed to hallucinate that people were hiding in the counseling room and standing at the pharmacy counter. Charges also say he provided the wrong medication to two patients, the wrong quantity to two other patients, and filled a schedule IV controlled substance for himself. Walling submitted to a urinalysis, which tested positive for fentanyl.

Walling cannot practice as a pharmacist in Washington until these charges are resolved. He has 20 days to respond to the charges and request a hearing.

The legal documents on this case are available online by clicking the link to “[Provider Credential Search](#)” on the [Department of Health website](#); copies can also be requested by calling 360-236-4700. Anyone who believes a health care provider acted unprofessionally is encouraged to call that number to report their complaint.

The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission regulates pharmacist’s in Washington. The Commission establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms and discipline. Rules, policies and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to state residents.

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

###