Past Event: 2023 APRN Roundtable - Navigating Through the APRN License

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documentation this APRN was making and whether that documentation supported the decision-making for these patients and that was not found.

In fact, the documentation in the chart was very scant, very little, very little charting. In the second case, the APRN was reported anonymously to the board. And when investigated, the violations described by the anonymous complainant in the complaint were not substantiated.

However, during the investigation, it was discovered that the APRN had written a non-narcotic controlled substance for chronic pain. In our state, APRNs are prohibited from treating obesity or chronic pain or prescribing controlled substances for chronic pain, and that is regardless of the education and experience of the APRN.

This is something that in our state is defined in our rules. And so, that is another takeaway APRNs need to be aware of. So here in our state, APRNs are not permitted to prescribe controlled substances for chronic pain, and thus it was a violation by this APRN to have treated this patient with controlled substances for chronic pain.

Again, the board looked at the documentation for this APRN and all the charts were in fact very excellently documented, including the chart for this patient. So, in the first case, that's a higher degree of concern for the board.

It shows a systemic practice of this APRN and will likely result in a much higher level of discipline, likely probation at a minimum. The second case is a violation and is of concern to the board.

But this APRN will be much more successful in negotiating with the board on the issue of discipline. There are several mitigating factors that this APRN can bring to the board's attention, and something like probation may not be necessary for a nurse who has only been found to have deviated for one patient and something that their training and experience may support.

But the practice scope of practice and our state does not allow them to treat to their full practice authority. So again, be very cognizant of the rules of each state and whether scope of practice is limited, not just by education and training, but also by the specific rules and requirements of each practice jurisdiction.

We have reached the end of our voyage. I'll be available live to answer any questions you may have.

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