



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2011

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ISSUES FIVE EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERS
– *Action taken against licenses of five practitioners* –

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) today announced the Emergency Suspension Orders (ESO) of five practitioners. The ESOs immediately suspend the practitioners' licenses to practice in Florida.

"Practitioners must appropriately follow the rules and regulations and provide professional health care services to Florida's citizens and visitors," stated Florida Surgeon General Dr. Frank Farmer. "If they choose not to comply, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, such as suspending licenses."

Over the past week the following orders were issued:

- **Robert Frederick Cefola, Registered Respiratory Therapist**, Palm Beach Gardens. Cefola violated Florida Statutes when he sold 21 grams of marijuana and 106 Percocet tablets to a confidential informant.
- **Stephanie M. Jerome, Registered Nurse**, Naples. Jerome violated Florida Statutes by engaging in unprofessional conduct by testing positive for any drugs under Chapter 893, Florida Statutes, on her drug screen when she did not have a prescription and legitimate medical reason for using such drug.
- **Augusto Gabriel Lizarazo, Medical Doctor**, Lynbrook, New York. Lizarazo violated Florida Statutes by failing to practice medicine in accordance with the level of care, skill and treatment recognized in general law related to health care licensure by prescribing excessive or inappropriate quantities and doses of controlled substances and without justification or performing an adequate evaluation of patients and failing to obtain a complete medical history for patients, conduct adequate physical examinations or meaningful evaluations of patients, set forth an adequate treatment plan for patients, refer patients to evaluations or consultations with specialists or other treatment providers, perform a periodic review of the treatment of patients and adequately monitor or refer patients for diversion or substance abuse.
- **Elio Madan, Medical Doctor**, Jacksonville. Madan violated Florida Statutes by pleading guilty and being adjudicated guilty of one count of knowingly, willfully and intentionally combining, conspiring, confederating and agreeing with other persons who are known and unknown to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute Oxycodone.
- **Niver Placeres, Registered Nurse**, Opa Locka. Placeres violated Florida Statutes by pleading guilty to one count of executing a scheme to defraud Medicare to obtain, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, money and property owned by and under the custody and control of Medicare, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C., Section 1347.

View the complete Order listed above on DOH's Online Newsroom at <http://newsroom.doh.state.fl.us/category/healthcare-licensing/>.

Emergency suspension or restriction orders are not considered final agency action but are imposed as specified by section 456.074, Florida Statutes, for serious violations relating to the commission of crimes, standard of care, drug use, or for student loan defaults. The subject is entitled to a hearing before final action is taken by a regulatory board or by DOH.

To learn more about the Florida Department of Health visit www.doh.state.fl.us.

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The mission of the Florida Department of Health and Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) is to protect and promote the health of all residents and visitors in the state through organized state and community efforts, including cooperative agreements with counties. Working in conjunction with 22 boards and six councils, MQA regulates six types of facilities and more than 40 healthcare professions. MQA evaluates the credentials of all applicants for licensure, issues licenses, analyzes and investigates complaints, inspects facilities, assists in prosecuting practice act violations, combats unlicensed activity and provides credential and discipline history about licensees to the public.