



Rick Scott
Governor

H. Frank Farmer, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP
State Surgeon General

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Contact: DOH Office of Communications
Jennifer Hirst, (850) 245-4111

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ISSUES THIRTEEN EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDERS

– Action taken against licenses of twelve practitioners and one pain management clinic –

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) today announced the Emergency Suspension Orders (ESO) of twelve practitioners and a Lake Mary Pain Management Clinic. The ESOs immediately suspend the practitioners' and clinic's licenses to practice in Florida.

“The Florida Department of Health will continue to protect our citizens and visitors from practitioners and pain clinics that break the law,” stated the State Surgeon General Dr. Frank Farmer. “We must remain vigilant in using appropriate disciplinary tools, such as the Emergency Suspension Orders, to safeguard public health.”

Over the past few weeks the following orders were issued:

- **Cesar Augusto DeLeon, Physician Assistant**, Boyton Beach. Cesar violated Florida Statutes by pleading guilty to eight counts of knowingly and intentionally distributing and causing to be distributed to undercover law enforcement officers and patients, a controlled substance, specifically oxycodone, outside the scope of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose.
- **Kimberly Lorene Hogue, Licensed Practical Nurse**, Crestview. Hogue violated Florida Statutes by being found guilty of two counts of selling, delivering or possessing a controlled substance, a second degree felony.
- **Michael Paul Jones, Registered Nurse**, St. Augustine. Jones violated Florida Statutes by engaging in unprofessional conduct by testing positive for THC (marijuana) for which he did not have a prescription and legitimate medical reason for using such drug.
- **Steven R. Pearlstein, Medical Doctor**, Coral Springs. Pearlstein 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 when he prescribed inappropriate or excessive quantities of controlled substances; failing to prescribe alternative modalities for the treatment of patients; failing to verify the prescription history of patients prior to prescribing controlled substances; failing to refer or consider referring patients to other specialists for treatment; prescribing inappropriate or excessive quantities of steroids to patients; prescribing inappropriate or excessive quantities of hGH to patients; failing to adequately evaluate patients; prescribing Tamoxifen to patients, diagnosing patients with growth hormone deficiency and prescribing Oxymetholone to a patient despite the patient's increased liver enzymes.
- **Melissa Dianne Haggard, Licensed Practical Nurse**, Marianna. Haggard violated Florida Statutes by engaging in unprofessional conduct by testing positive for opiates for which she did not have a prescription and legitimate medical reason for using.

- **Ronald Lynch, Medical Doctor**, Lake Mary. Lynch violated Florida Statutes by practicing beyond the scope permitted by law by continuing to prescribe Schedule II through IV controlled substances after his Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Certificate of Registration was revoked.
- **Integrative Medicine of Lake Mary, Inc.** owned and operated by Dr. Ronald Lynch, violated Florida Statutes by continuing to prescribe Schedule II through IV controlled substances, including various opioids and benzodiazepines, after the DEA revoked Dr. Lynch's Certificate of Registration (DEA registration).
- **Michelle Lee Torres, Licensed Practical Nurse**, Gainesville. Torres violated Florida Statutes by entering a plea of nolo contendere to one count of obtaining controlled substances by fraud, a third degree felony.
- **Tracy A. Lisi, Certified Nursing Assistant**, Port Richey. Lisi violated Florida Statutes by entering pleas of nolo contendere to one count of possession of methamphetamine, a third degree felony and one count of possession of Alprazolam, a third degree felony.
- **Jean Marie Frack, Registered Nurse**, Fernandina Beach. Frack violated Florida Statutes by obtaining a prescription for Lortab, a controlled substance, when that prescription was fraudulent and not authorized by a physician and for using her knowledge and experience as a registered nurse to call in prescriptions to pharmacies for herself using a doctor's information. Frack misrepresented herself as someone in the doctor's office and called in fraudulent prescriptions for herself to receive Ambient, Lortab and Retin-A Micro gel.
- **Ivette Quiles Vidro, Registered Nurse**, Miami. Vidro violated Florida Statutes by engaging in unprofessional conduct by testing positive for Fioricet for which she did not have a valid prescription and legitimate medical reason for using such drug.
- **Margarette Gourdet, Licensed Practical Nurse**, Sunrise. Gourdet violated Florida Statutes by pleading guilty to and was found guilty of one count of Possession of Controlled Substance, a third degree felony.
- **Peter E. Weinstein, Certified Nursing Assistant**, New Port Richey. Weinstein violated Florida Statutes by engaging in unprofessional conduct by testing positive opiates and morphine on his drug screen when he did not have a prescription and legitimate medical reason for using such drug.

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.