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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

ADMISSION BAN for RENO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL LIFTED, LICENSE REVOCATION PROCESS CONTINUES

Carson City – Following a meeting today between the Nevada State Health Division and representatives of BHC West Hills Hospital, a patient admission ban imposed on the Reno psychiatric facility for adults, children and adolescents will be lifted on Thursday. However, the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance continues to move forward with license revocation proceedings for the facility, located at 1240 E. Ninth St.

The decision to lift the admission ban, which had been put into effect Tuesday with a notice of summary license suspension, came after talks with hospital representatives in a process called Informal Dispute Resolution. An agreement was reached between state Health Division officials and the hospital to instead appoint a monitor to oversee patient safety at the facility. The full-time monitor will be selected with the joint approval of the Health Division and the hospital, and will be paid for by the facility. The monitor will remain at the facility until the revocation hearing. Because of this stipulated agreement, a requirement that the hospital relocate the 52 patients, 20 of whom are adolescents, within 30 days, is no longer in effect.

The Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance has notified the hospital of its intent to revoke the facility's license after a patient admitted for observation on May 30 was able to overdose on pills she had brought to the facility with her. The patient, under observation following an attempted suicide, was found in her room several hours later in an impaired state and was sent to an area hospital emergency room for treatment. Pills that she had brought with her were discovered in her mattress and had been missed in a search by facility staff.

The Bureau has concluded the facility cannot ensure patient safety following three serious incidents identified over the past eight months. The facility is appealing the license revocation.

The hospital had a three-day ban on new admissions imposed in April, and was assessed a \$5,800 fine, relating to the Dec. 25, 2008 attempted suicide by the two juveniles and other numerous violations of state regulations identified in surveys by Bureau investigators in March and April of 2009.

(MORE)



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Recent surveys of the facility, as well as related documents, can be found here:
<http://health.nv.gov/Deficiencies.htm>

The Bureau issues press releases about the facilities it regulates in limited circumstances: where major public health concerns are identified in licensed facilities; in significant cases of repeat violations in licensed facilities; in cases of the suspension or revocation of a license; in cases where patient harm has occurred; and in cases where unlicensed facilities are operating.

The Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance protects the safety and welfare of the public through the promotion and advocacy of quality health care through licensing, regulation, enforcement and education. This mission is accomplished through the Bureau's two sections: Licensure and Certification, which regulates facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and laboratories; and Radiological Health, which evaluates and responds to hazards from sources of ionizing radiation such as X-ray machines, sources of radiation to treat cancer and mammography units.

For health facilities, more than 900 surveys are conducted each year of Nevada's licensees. More information about the Bureau may be found at: <http://health.nv.gov/>

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