STATE OF NEW YORK : DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

IN THE MATTER

OF

ANTONIA C. NOVELLO, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H., as Commissioner of Health of the State of New York, to determine the action to be taken with respect to:

ERIE COUNTY

Respondent

as operator of

ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER - SNF
462 Grider Street
Buffalo, New York 14215

arising out of alleged violations of Article 28 of the Public Health Law of the State of New York and Title 10 (Health) of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR).

STIPULATION

AND

ORDER

NH-02-99

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health (the "Department"), has made findings based upon inspections of the Erie County Medical Center - SNF (the "Facility"); and

WHEREAS, the Department completed its inspections of the Facility on December 20, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Department's inspection findings included alleged violations of Article 28 of the Public Health Law and 10 NYCRR Part 415; and

WHEREAS, prior to commencement of administrative enforcement action based upon the alleged violations by service of a Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges, the Department and the Respondent engaged in settlement discussions; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to resolve this matter by means of a settlement instead of an adversarial administrative hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. This matter is settled and discontinued with prejudice. The Department shall not pursue administrative enforcement action against the Respondent pursuant to Article 28 of the Public Health Law and 10 NYCRR Part 415 in connection with the Department's findings based upon the inspections completed on December 20, 2001.

2. The Respondent admits that substantial evidence of violations of 10 NYCRR Part 415 existed under the citations set forth in the attached addendum. The foregoing admission made by the Respondent is solely for the purpose of resolving the instant administrative matter and is not intended for use in any other forum, tribunal or court, including any Medicare or Medicaid enforcement proceeding and including any civil or criminal proceeding in which the issues or burden of proof may differ. Any such admission is without prejudice to the Respondent's rights, defenses and claims in any other matter, proceeding, action, hearing or litigation not involving the Department. It is agreed that the foregoing admission is not intended to be dispositive of any allegations of medical malpractice that may be made in a civil action for monetary damages.

3. Pursuant to Sections 12 and 206 of the Public Health Law, the Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.) within fifteen (15) days after the effective date of this Stipulation and Order. This civil penalty shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be made payable by certified check to the New York State Department of Health and forwarded to the NewYork State Department of Health, Bureau of Accounts Management, Room 1258, Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12237-0016. Any civil penalty not paid by the date prescribed herein shall be subject to all provisions of law relating to debt collection by the State of New York. This includes, but is not limited to, the imposition of interest, late payment charges and collection fees; referral to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for collection,and non-renewal of permits or licenses [Tax Law Section 171(27); State Finance Law Section 18; CPLR Section 5001; Executive Law Section 32].

4. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude the Department from pursuing any and all sanctions or remedies authorized by the Public Health Law against any individual employed by or practicing in association with the Facility for any violations identified during the inspections referred to herein. Such sanctions and remedies may include, but are not limited to, administrative proceedings brought pursuant to Public Health Law Section 2803-d (relating to patient abuse, mistreatment or neglect), Public Health Law Section 230 (relating to professional medical conduct) and Public Health Law Article 28-D (relating to the practice of nursing home administration). A copy of this Stipulation and Order shall be sent to the Bureau of Nursing Home Administrator Licensure for whatever action, if any, it may deem appropriate.

5. It is further stipulated and agreed by the Respondent and the Department that there exist valid and sufficient grounds, as a matter of fact and law, for the issuance of this Stipulation and Order under the Public Health law, and the Respondent consents to its issuance, accepts its terms and conditions and waives any right to challenge this Stipulation and Order in a proceeding pursuant to Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules or in any other action or proceeding.

6. This Stipulation and Order shall be effective upon service on the Respondent or the Respondent's attorney or representative of a copy by personal service or by certified or registered mail.

DATED: , New York
10/23/, 2002

ERIE COUNTY

By: Sheila K. Kee

AGREED AND SO ORDERED:

DATED: Albany, New York
11-1 2002

ANTONIA C. NOVELLO, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.
Commissioner of Health

By: _____

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New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Accounts Management
Corning Tower, Room 1258
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237-0016

ADDENDUM

ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER - SNF

DATE	CODE CITE 10 NYCRR	VIOLATION
December 20, 2001	415.12	Quality of Care