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News Release

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Nurse pleads guilty to stealing pain reliever from hospital

Earlier today in federal court in Minneapolis, a registered nurse pleaded guilty to entering a hospital in May of 2010, falsely representing herself as a nurse employed by the hospital, and then stealing a pain killer. Maria Anne Mihalik, age 31, of Superior, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty to one count of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud. Mihalik, who was charged on February 11, 2011, entered her plea before United States District Court Judge David S. Doty.

In her plea agreement, Mihalik admitted to entering Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids on May 5, 2010, and obtaining the controlled substance Dilaudid for her personal benefit.

For her crime, Mihalik faces a potential maximum penalty of four years in prison. Judge Doty will determine her sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-Criminal Investigations Division. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

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