



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

## **News Release**

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### **Nurse pleads guilty stealing narcotics from hospital**

MINNEAPOLIS—Yesterday in federal court, a 45-year-old nurse employed at a hospital pleaded guilty to stealing the narcotic hydromorphone. Della Rae Thalín, of New Richmond, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty to one count of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud. Thalín, who was charged on August 22, 2011, entered her plea before United States District Court Judge Ann D. Montgomery.

In her plea agreement, Thalín admitted that between February 25 and March 19, 2011, she obtained the hydromorphone by accessing drug storage cabinets using her unique user identification and password. She then removed it from the hospital for her personal use.

For her crime, Thalín faces a potential maximum penalty of four years in prison. Judge Montgomery 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-Office of Criminal Investigations, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Stillwater Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

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