

Inspectie voor de Gezondheidszorg
Ministerie van Volksgezondheid
Welzijn en Sport

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Stichting Narconon Nederland
T.a.v. Mevrouw J Kluessien
Directrice
Deventerweg 93
7203 AD ZUTPHEN

Datum 24 mei 2013
Onderwerp Instellen verscherpt toezicht

Geachte mevrouw Kluessien,

I hereby inform you that Narconon Netherlands Foundation (hereinafter Narconon) in Zutphen is placed on increased supervision for a period of six months starting by May 24, 2013. The inspection for healthcare (hereinafter the inspection) may extend this period if necessary.

The increased surveillance is the result of an investigation by the inspection. On February 28, 2013 and March 14, 2013 the Inspection made unannounced visits to Narconon. This was in response to anonymous reports from 2012. The inspection documented the visit and agreements made on April 23, 2013 with a letter to Narconon.

On May 16, 2013 the Inspection made another unannounced visit to Narconon to verify to what extent they fulfilled the agreements made. The inspection found during that visit that you were failing to satisfy the arrangements, putting patients at risk. This prompted the Inspection to send you an 'intention to order' on 17 May 2013

[Editor: this basically means: We are giving you are heads up that we are about to issue an order in which we are going to command you what to do. If you don't comply with that, we will shut you down]

The order would include the following commands:

- Narconon cannot take in clients who have an immediate/current addiction;

[Editor: a bit difficult to translate, not clear what this means exactly]

- Narconon evidences that agreements are made with a medical physician that each new client is assessed prior to admission;

- Narconon ensures and documents that every new client is assessment prior to admission by a medical physician;- Narconon provides provides proof they have withdrawn from the WTZi

[Editor: this is a law that enables them to do charge to insurers. Not sure if it also means they aren't allowed to do in-house counseling.]

On May 21, 2013 Narconon made use of the possibility to respond to the 'intention to order'. Your view was expressed during a meeting on May 21, 2013 as follows:

- The client that was admitted on May 15, 2013 has a cocaine addiction and he had been using cocaine until 4:00 pm that day. You believe that a cocaine addiction does not involve physical withdrawal symptoms. A client, which has only used cocaine, can

- safely be admitted and see the doctor the next day.

- You said you understood the agreement only applied to people who could have physical withdrawal symptoms.

- Due to busy work you had not gotten around to withdrawing the admission for the WTZi. You submitted this application to the CIRB by letter on May 16, 2013.

- You will send the written agreement with the medical doctor about assessing new clients prior to admission.

Following this conversation, the inspection decided not to impose the order. However, given the findings of 16 May 2013 in conjunction with the agreements made and your view, we have decided to place you under enhanced surveillance. The inspection is doubtful, partly as a result of the observations on 16 May, about your readiness and ability to comply with the agreements you made with the inspection.

Measures to be taken

The Inspection noted during her visit on May 16, 2013 that you failed to comply with agreements made with the inspection, as confirmed in the letter dated April 23, 2013. These agreements were:

- Not taking in clients with current addiction problems and/or current/severe psychological/psychiatric problems;
- Assessing each new client by a physician prior to admission;
- Withdrawal from WTZi.

In the meeting on 21 May last, you confirmed your willingness to adhere to the arrangements made and to not admit clients with a current addiction and/or current severe mental/psychiatric problems. You have also indicated that all clients will be assessed by the physician prior to admitting them.

[Editor: I am unclear what this means. It most definitely means that people cannot do a cold turkey any longer in Narconon. Possibly, they can still undergo the sauna/niacin regime, which would align with having to see a doctor. However, it could also mean that Narconon is only allowed to do TRs and courses.]

The inspection will conduct an increased surveillance in order to test compliance with these arrangements. They will do this through unannounced visits. The Inspection also expects to receive a copy of the letter from the CIRB confirming the withdrawal from WTZi.

The enhanced surveillance will be lifted after six months, if the inspection considers the arrangements to be demonstrably followed by Narconon. If your institution still places patients at risk during and after the period of six months, then the Inspection will consider requesting the Minister to close down Narconon or any other measure that can be given under quality of healthcare laws.

The decision to install enhanced surveillance is not open to objection and appeal.

The decision to establish enhanced surveillance, together with a press release and a copy of this letter, will be published as soon as possible on the website of the inspection (www.igz.nl).

On May 24, 2013, you have objected to the disclosure of this letter and the accompanying press release. In view of this, I will take a decision in the context of the Freedom of Information Laws shortly (WOB). You receive communication regarding this separately.

Hoogachtend,

Senior inspecteur