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Press Release

Man admits to sneaking Drugs to hospital patient

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A Hyde Park man pled guilty in Norfolk Superior Court last week to charges he smuggled heroin and the drug Suboxone into Norwood Hospital and supplied them to a patient there last year, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Angel Garcia, 55, of Clifford Street in Hyde Park, pled guilty to distribution of the class A controlled substance heroin, and distribution of the class B controlled substance Suboxone (subsequent offense) before Judge Beverly Cannone on August 2. He was scheduled to go to trial on those charges August 9.

"Norwood Hospital personnel were closely monitoring a female patient on the evening of August 8 last year when Mr. Garcia came to the room, ostensibly to provide the patient with a bag of fresh clothing," District Attorney Morrissey said. "But that staff member also observed him to transfer two pieces of paper to the patient, who then got up to move to the restroom – even though the patient was not supposed to move to the restroom alone."

The papers were taken and examined by hospital staff, prompting a supervising nurse to contact Norwood Police.

"The security and medical staff were of great assistance to the Norwood Police Department in this case," Morrissey said. "Police arrived and found one paper to contain a broken orange pill and the other a powdery substance, which the officer recognized as controlled substances."

Judge Cannone adopted Assistant District Attorney Debi Curley's sentence recommendation of 4 to 5 years in state prison, Morrissey said. "That is a substantial period of incarceration for a small quantity of narcotics, but this was not his first conviction," Morrissey said. "It was also an example of extreme recklessness to be supplying dangerous drugs to a person hospitalized specifically because they are in a fragile state."