



*Use the space below to provide a description of measures you think could have prevented any action being taken against the license and/or would have prevented harm to the patient if harm occurred.*

*As a nursing student, we are taught to always think "SAFETY" especially when it comes to patients. Safety when it comes to medications is one of the tasks which requires the most discipline. The respondent made multiple chances to either prevent her mistake and/or catch her mistake to keep the patient from deteriorating. I feel the respondent cut corners and did not have the discipline to do what was right. No telling how many times she has done the same thing to other patients. I understand the STAT order is important, but she should have followed the correct dispensing protocol when gathering her medication. If she would have scanned the medication, the system should have prompted her that it was the HEPARIN and not HEP SAN. Each healthcare team has their own set of protocols to prevent harm. Taking the shortcut to pull the medications as the respondent did because the pharmacy had not prepared the order quick enough demonstrated her lack of discipline and failure to comply with hospital policy. Even though she neglected to scan, prior to medication administration, the nurse is supposed to check the medication 3 x prior to administration. She should have looked on the order, while in dispensing and finally PRIOR to administration at the bedside. Second, I feel the nurse failed to do a proper assessment when she did not notice the medication error after the family member had informed her on the blood in the drain.*

*Administration of the wrong medication may have been the worst part of her incident, but the respondent also failed to notify her superiors. Also, it is stated that she attempted to document the incident three times prior to assuming it went through successfully. As a professional, she should have assessed and reassessed every mistake that was made and been truthful about her incident. By informing her superiors, she could have had assistance in making sure the proper corrective measures began to take place in order to assist in her case. The patient could have also been able to receive the preventative care needed before deteriorating. Only the respondent knows the truth about what caused her to be distracted and/or overwhelmed her that day, but this incident put a patient's life in jeopardy.*

*Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first to person to discover the event described, in other words, you are the one who discovers the patient has been harmed by the nurse or you have discovered the impairment or criminal activity cited in the disciplinary action.*

*It is stated, the respondent officially realizes the medication error at the end of her shift during report. When the lab informs her on abnormal labs and when the oncoming nurse questions the respondent about the Heparin medication. As the nurse taking this report for the patient I would be having for the next shift, I would have requested assistance from the respondent till the patient was stabilized. I would want to know the duration of the incident and full history just as precaution if I would need to contact the physician in charge. The statement does not clarify when the superiors were notified of the error. As the nurse who discovered the error, I would personally ask the respondent if she had taken to correct measures to document the situation. If she had failed to notify the charge nurse, I would have informed her myself but discretely not to escalate the personal and emotional damage which has already occurred. Finally, as a prudent nurse I would have reflected on the mistake witnessed and reassessed what I myself would have done in the case that I was the one who made the error. We are all inclined to making a mistake but learning from other's mistakes is just as important. Being mindful of slowing down and double checking your work or processes can mean the difference between life and death.*