



*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.*

*Like my recent post, alcohol was involved in both cases by the RN's. This case, the nurse had alcohol in his system while on duty. It did not specify if he was drinking on the job or if it was residual from the day before. Either way, his body was impaired whether he felt impaired or not. There may have been an action during the first charge which initiated the drug screen, which followed his career to the random drug screen resulting in the second charge. He could have made an error while on duty those days thinking he was doing everything correctly. That error could have costed a life and the drug screen could have costed the nurse his own life by getting additional prosecution charges. If the respondent felt impaired or not, his responsibility toward his patients began when he clocked in for his shift. With the slightest thought of being impaired, the respondent should have not been taking care of patients. As for getting the second charge, he should not have put himself in that situation AGAIN. That shows he lacks integrity and responsibility toward his patient, staff, and company.*

*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.*

*Alcohol is not a legal drug and it is fine to consume and even the consumption requires responsibility. Though, being impaired or having alcohol in your system while caring for patients, those two worlds should not mix. In this case, it happened multiple times. As a prudent nurse, I would have been more cautious in delegating tasks to the respondent after the first charge for sure. That is mostly to protect myself and the patient's I am caring for. As a team, you are only as strong as your weakest link. I also understand that nobody is perfect, and we do not know why people do certain actions. This case was mostly handled by the respondent's superiors. If I would have noticed the nurse as having alcohol in his system or of being impaired, as a coworker I would have pulled him aside and suggested he request the rest of the shift off. Lacking a bit on that week's paycheck isn't worth a life. I would also recommend he think twice about returning to work after a period of drinking and/or exchanging shifts with others if needed. As a friend which I tend to be with most, I would have showed concern on why he decided to work with alcohol in his system. Just showing concern could have prevented his second charge and ultimately his license. As I mentioned earlier, only as strong as the weakest link. If the integrity of that link is not secured or improved, the chain would eventually break. That break could have been a life, whether it was the respondents, coworker or the life of a patient.*