

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Sydney Sharp

Date: 10/11/2020

DAS Assignment # 2

Name of the defendant: Elizabeth Wong

License number of the defendant: 843333

Date action was taken against the license: 11/13/2018

Type of action taken against the license: Reprimand with stipulations

Respondent failed to advocate for their patient throughout their shift. The patient experienced a decline in status, with oxygen desaturation, worsening tachypnea, and elevated temperature. The respondent sent a text to the physician about the patient's condition at the beginning of the shift. There was no response and no follow up until 0530. The respondent also failed to clarify tube feeding orders with the physician and obtain approval to use the newly placed nasogastric tube (NGT) prior to initiating tube feedings. This behavior by the respondent caused the patient to experience respiratory failure, requiring intubation, and aspiration pneumonia. The respondent's conduct and delay in necessary interventions caused injury to the patient.

This disciplinary action proves how important it is to be a patient advocate and to have open communication with the patient's care team. In this situation, the respondent failed to advocate for their patient when contacting the physician. The respondent stated that they sent the physician a text at the beginning of the shift and there was no response until their shift was almost over. There should have been a call to the physician when no response came from the text. If there was still no contact with the physician, the respondent should have consulted with their charge nurse about the situation. The charge nurse could have helped the respondent reach the physician and get clarification on the NGT placement and order to start tube feedings. The respondent could have also consulted with their coworkers to determine appropriate interventions to prevent the patient's declining status. This would display open communication with everyone that is involved with the care of this patient. There were too many missed opportunities to get help for this patient. The respondent did not do all that they could for the patient and because of this, a costly injury occurred.

In this situation, I would have told the respondent that I was there to help them and the patient and to have them tell me how they needed me to help. Whether it be applying a rebreather mask to the patient to improve oxygenation, offering to contact the physician so that the respondent could stay with the patient, or consulting with the charge nurse to determine what other actions need to be taken to benefit this patient. I believe that it is important that the respondent know that they are not in this situation alone and that they have a team that is ready to help.