

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Marcia Mata

Date: 7/31/21

DAS Assignment #1 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: What Ja Alamham

License number of the defendant: 694751

Date action was taken against the license: June 16, 2015

Type of action taken against the license: Warning with Stipulations

On September 7, 2012, R.N. Wha Ja Alamham who was employed with St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston, TX; failed to notify the physician regarding her patients' status. The respondent did not notify and/or document notifying the physician of patient medical record number, 0172813; bowels protruding from his abdomen. The respondents conduct resulted in incomplete medical record and exposed he patient to an unnecessarily risk of harm. Since the other care givers would rely on her documentation to provide further care to this patient. The respondent stated, "she did not see the physician while he was making rounds, but he had written labs the next morning and an oral diuretic". To her this meant the physician had assessed the patient, including his bowel and abdomen. The Texas Board of Nursing cited her with violations of 22 Tex. Admin. Codes 217.11; standards of nursing practice and 217.12; unprofessional conduct.

The document didn't state that the patient was harmed due to the respondent's negligence to notify the physician. However, the patient could've experienced serious complications such as, internal bleeding, sepsis, abdominal abscesses, or permanent bowel damage. The nurse is very lucky the patient was not harmed. The issue I see, the nurse should have never assumed that the physician had assessed the patient. As a nurse you can never assume anything, this is bad practice. You must always contact the physician when an issue with the patient like this occurs. More importantly, you must also be sure to always document what was said by the physician and what actions are taken. This is always best practice for the patient, the nurse, and the team. It allows everyone to know what is going with the patient, and on the same page to do what's right for the patient.

If I were put in this situation and found out a nurse had not notified a physician regarding the patient's status. I would first go to the nurse and ask her if she had talked to the physician regarding the patient, to see what she would say. I would remind her, contacting the physician is the right thing to do considering the patient's current state. Depending on her answer would determine my next

steps. Unless I specifically heard her contact the physician myself then I would be satisfied the issue was taken care of. However, if she lied to me then I would report her actions immediately to the charge nurse. In this case no one was able to step in and advocate for this patient. Luckily the nurses' actions did not result in severe issues or possible death for the patient.