

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Chelsie Callesen

Date: 8/15/2021

DAS Assignment # 3 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Melanie Erika Pinkerton

License number of the defendant: 912095

Date action was taken against the license: 5/14/2019

Type of action taken against the license: Limited License

Use the space below to describe the events which led to action taken against the license. If multiple charges were in play, be sure and cite them, e.g., drug diversion, HIPAA violation, abandonment, forfeiture on student loans, etc.

The nurse in question, Mrs. Pinkerton, failed to obtain an order to remove a patient's medical record from telemetry monitoring and bilevel positive airway pressure (BiPAP) when she obtained an order for Ativan to help calm the patient before going to have a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in the radiology department. After administering the first dose of Ativan in the patient's room, Mrs. Pinkerton then failed to monitor her patient's vital signs, as well as their oxygen saturation.

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.

One big step Mrs. Pinkerton could've taken to prevent this situation from happening would've been calling the provider and verifying that she was in fact doing the right thing. Seeing as she was the acting charge nurse when this incident occurred, she didn't have that to turn to, so the next option would've either been to go to her manager or go to the provider that was on the patient's case. Although she stated that the provider was unaware of their patient being on BiPAP to begin with, it's still incredibly important to for the healthcare providers to communicate with one another and work as a team.

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.

In this particular situation, if I were the nurse to first discover this incidence occurring, I would've spoken directly with Mrs. Pinkerton. Sometimes having someone else talk us through a situation, to help us rationalize our actions better, can really help. I think deep down, Mrs. Pinkerton knew the proper protocol to administering Ativan to her patient, regardless of the reason, you need to monitor them. This situation seemed to be made more or less worse, due to the lack of communication between all parties and could've been avoided had Mrs. Pinkerton verified orders before choosing to proceed.