

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Rafael Alegre

Date: October 1, 2021

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: **Jenna Walker**

License number of the defendant: **939715**

Date action was taken against the license: **5/12/2020**

Type of action taken against the license: **Revoked**

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.

On January 22 of 2019, Ms. Walker showed signs that she is unfit to practice nursing. She was deemed unfit since the defendant exhibited multiple signs which included unsteady gait, slurred speech, and an odor of alcohol. A breathalyzer was conducted and she tested positive for alcohol use. A urine sample was also obtained which showed she was positive for Oxazepam and Hydrocodone, which are controlled substances.

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. Consider which universal competencies were violated

Ms. Walker should not have reported to work knowing she is intoxicated. However, the use of Oxazepam and Hydrocodone is a serious offense. Oxazepam and Hydrocodone are Schedule II and Schedule IV drugs respectively and should not be easily accessible unless drug diversion is conducted. To avoid diversion, Pyxis machines should be accounted and audited diligently. In addition, co-workers must report any suspicion of drug diversion. One of the nursing principles is beneficence, which means doing no harm, and Ms. Walker did not uphold the principle by showing up to work intoxicated while using controlled substances.

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.

A prudent nurse should immediately recognize when a fellow nurse is unfit to do his/her responsibility. Once suspected, the nurse must report immediately to the Nurse Leader. It is better to be wrong in that suspicion rather than harm a patient. Additionally, drug diversion suspicions should have been identified earlier by carefully auditing Pyxis machines. In this particular case, the nurses were prudent by reporting Ms. Walker and have avoided the risk of her potentially harming her patients and herself.