

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: **Miriam Rivas** Date: **10/2/21**

DAS Assignment # 1

(1-4)

Name of the defendant: **Joan Elizabeth Armstrong** License number of the defendant: **581334**

Date action was taken against the license: **September 11, 2012**

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.

This nurse was charged with two charges, both being unprofessional conduct. Both of these violations can be found in the 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE 217.12.

Charge I: Nurse Joan came into work around January 30, 2012 acting as if she was impaired. Other coworkers stated that she was not practicing safe nursing. She had impaired speech with an unsteady gait. Not only was she acting under the influence, she also arrived late to work while acting very strange. She was obviously not in a state to take care of patients due to her unprofessional actions.

Charge II: The nurse was required to get a drug screen due to her behavior at work, and she had tested positive for butalbital, which is a Fioricet that can cause you to become “high” with a higher dose, and hydrocodone. This could have been extremely harmful to her patients.

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.

Luckily, there was not a medication error or any harm done to a patient. They noticed her behavior before that could even happen. Sadly, that is not always the case with everyone who decides to be irresponsible. She knew the risk of showing up to work under the influence. She was very much aware of the amount she took and how it could affect her work. There is no exact measure she could have taken other than to be a responsible adult. She fully deserves her punishment.

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.

I would tell the charge nurse or charge manager as soon as I feel suspicious of any abnormal behavior. I feel like it is very easy to notice any impairment behaviors. I also would not let it wait. If I was to let it slide and think to myself that I am “overlooking it”, that would also be on me. My job as a student and a future nurse is to advocate for my patients whether it is direct care or simply making sure the other caregiver is in a good physical and mental state.