

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Faith Lane

Date: 10/2/21

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Stephanie Michelle Andersen

License number of the defendant: 786784

Date action was taken against the license: February 10, 2015

Type of action taken against the license: 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.

The nurse had 4 charges against her. The first was failure to follow facility procedure for wastage of drugs, specifically Dilaudid. The nurse withdrew the medication from the dispensing system, and partially administered it to 2 patients. Her record shows that she wasted 1mg for 1 patient and 1.5 mg for another patient without following hospital procedures on wastage of drugs. The second charge was falsifying medical records. At the end of her shift, she falsified vital signs of 5 patients, meaning the caregivers after her shift had false information that could have ended in patient harm. The third charge was for lacking "fitness to practice professional nursing." The nurse was seen coming out of the bathroom with a bloody bandage on her wrist and bloody needles and syringes were found in her belongings. It was obvious that the nurse was "drowsy and incoherent" which put her patients in danger. The last charge was for theft. It was for property valued between \$50 and \$500 which is a class B misdemeanor.

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.

All of the "mistakes" that this nurse made were completely and totally avoidable. She should have followed hospital policy when wasting meds, but she chose not to. She also chose not to take vitals on patients; she just chose to falsify the medical record which is a legal document and any falsification is illegal. To me, if I saw a person come out of a bathroom and they were not acting right, had a bandage on their arm with visible blood, and bloody needles and syringes were found in the persons belongings, it's safe to say that I would assume that they are using drugs. The fact that this nurse was found in this state while she was supposed to be taking care of patients is unacceptable. Stealing, is illegal even for people who are not nurses and who are not in a hospital setting. All of the charges against this nurse were completely avoidable, and the only reason that they happened is because of the nurses choices. These mistakes were not accidents, they were a result of poor choices.

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.

If I was the one who saw this nurse doing any of the actions that I have described I would have reported her immediately. Pertaining to improper wasting of meds, I would tell the charge nurse, however I would also remind the nurse and just let her know that anytime she needs to waste meds, she can call me to come watch and sign off for her. If I saw her falsifying vital signs, and I knew that she had not taken them, I would call her out on it, and even offer to help if time was the problem. As far as stealing and being mentally and physically unable to work, I would have little to no sympathy, and I would immediately tell the charge nurse. If this nurse was using drugs, I understand that is a disease and a sickness, however, as a nurse her job is to help sick patients, and you cannot do that if you are under the influence.