

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Rafael Alegre

Date: October 8, 2021

DAS Assignment # 2

Name of the defendant: **Virginia Bernice Woods**

License number of the defendant: **607967**

Date action was taken against the license: **1/21/2021**

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.

Ms. Woods has multiple charges filed against her. **Her first charge** was in January of 2014, wherein she exhibited impaired behavior that included crying and suicide threats, which would impair her from doing her duties as a nurse. **Her second charge** was in July of 2014, and was similar to her first charge wherein she could not function properly as a nurse since she is currently admitted for unstable mental health. **Her third charge** was in April of 2015, where she administered Lyrica 200mg instead of 100mg, which would most likely harm her patient due to overdose. **Her fourth charge** was also in April of 2015, wherein she administered Methadone 2.5 mg instead of the 5mg that was ordered, which would render an non-efficacious treatment. **Her fifth charge** was also in April of 2015, wherein she incorrectly transcribed a drug for 14 days instead of 5, which would cause the patient to suffer adverse reactions from prolonged use. **Her sixth charge** was also in April of 2015, wherein she was acting erratically due to her using alcohol while working. She also showed tremors while attending a meeting a few days after. Her alcohol use will affect her ability to care for patients and could also potentially harm them. **Her seventh charge** was also from April of 2015, where she failed to administer Coumadin and Metformin to her patients, only to find those medications in a cup in the medication drawer.

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

With several charges filed against her, these would be the measures I would have done if I was Ms. Woods:

1. First and Second Charge (unstable mental health and admission in a mental health facility)

Knowing that I am unfit to work due because of my current mental state, I should not have reported to work. My decision of working would not worsen my mental state but consequently harm the patients assigned to me. A prudent nurse would have admitted to the Nurse Leader and/or superiors about her condition and would ask for a significant time off from working to treat my mental problems

2. Third Charge (Overdosing patient with Lyrica)

Always perform the three checks before giving the medicine. With these checks, it would be easier to avoid dosing errors.

3. Fourth Charge (Under-dosing patient with Methadone)

Similar to the last charge, always perform three checks before giving medication. This is a vital step that is taught early in the first module so that we don't forget it. This is a fundamental step that cannot be skipped.

4. Fifth Charge (Incorrectly transcribed medication)

Whenever an order is given through the phone, it is important that an order is read and spelled back. This is done to prevent errors such as these. Also, it should be verified with the provider that gave the order the next day. This will give the patient an incorrect dose which will ultimately harm them.

5. Sixth Charge (Use of alcohol during work)

This is just unacceptable. Working in this profession requires us nurses to be attentive and fit to carry our responsibility to help save lives. The use of alcohol during work will render the person unfit to fulfill their duties. When intoxicated, do not report to work. It will not only harm you but also the patient.

6. Seventh Charge (Failure to administer)

The three checks before med administration will deter moments like these from happening. Acknowledging the HCP's orders, checking the drawn med from the eMAR, and scanning bedside before giving should definitely help stop these incidents from happening.

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 prudent nurse that first discovered her doing any of these charges, I would immediately report her to the Nurse Leader or our direct superior. If she is unfit to work, she should not have come to work. It only puts our patients at an even higher risk. If she would not heed any advice from our superiors, then it would also be rightful to get the police involved. With all these charges, I believe it is justifiable that she has her license revoked.