

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Alexandra Redman Date: 05-26-2022 DAS Assignment # 4

Name of the defendant: Cacy Danielle Cate

License number of the defendant: 649106

Date action was taken against the license: August, 2, 2013

Type of action taken against the license: Remedial Education with Fine

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 2, 2012, Cate was given a tablet of Xanax by another staff nurse. The nurse obtained the Xanax from the Pyxis under a patient's name. Cate stated that she had disposed of the Xanax in the sink but did not have a witness. This patient was charged for a medication they did not receive. Cate claims that she was having a hypertensive emergency at the time and her prescribed medication was not working so she was prescribed a one-time dose of Xanax by her physician. She claims she did not take the Xanax the other staff nurse gave her and threw it down the sink at the nurse's station.

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.

Two things happened in this situation that should not have. In emergency situations, sometimes nurses will pass on medications to another nurse and have them administer it, but that can still lead to a serious situation and is not safe practice. It is hard to be sure whether you are being given the correct medication, dosage, etc. It is best to administer your own medication and not pass it on to someone else to administer. Any time medication is wasted, you should have a witness. Xanax is a controlled substance therefore, it is even more crucial to have a witness at the time of wastage. Instead of throwing the Xanax down the sink, Cate should have called for a witness to watch her waste the Xanax. Cate could have also returned the Xanax to the Pyxis because it was never administered. Because Cate did not get a witness at the time of wastage, a patient was charged for a medication they never received which is not right. Cate should also have not accepted the Xanax from the other nurse to begin with. The other nurse should have known better and not given another patient's medication to another nurse to administer. This violates the standard precaution and safety/security universal competencies.

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 were to witness a nurse passing on a patient's medication to another nurse, I would tell the charge nurse immediately. Not only does that hurt the patient because they aren't getting the medication that was ordered for them, but also because if the nurse takes that Xanax, it can affect her performance which could lead to increasing the patient's risk even more.