

Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Miranda Martinez      Date: 09/01/2022      DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Jo Ann Marie Freeman      License number of the defendant: 519054

Date action was taken against the license: September, 30th, 2015

Type of action taken against the license: Enforced Suspension

On May 11th, 2015, Mrs. Freeman was employed with Medical Center Hospital located in Odessa, Texas, as a Registered Nurse. Freeman appeared to have slurred speech, impairment, and slow responses, which later were a result from the misuse of Alprazolam. The medication is to treat anxiety and panic disorder, with side effects of impaired judgment, and memory. Due to the “intemperate use of Alprazolam”, her patients were in harm due to Freeman not being able to recognize the patients conditions, signs, and symptoms. Freeman however, was prescribed Alprazolam by her primary doctor due to her divorce, switch to night shift, and personal life issues. She produced a urine sample which was positive for Alprazolam. She displayed slow responses which is one of the side effects of the drug. Alprazolam is a highly addictive drug that causes all of these symptoms that resulted in Freemans inability to have proper nursing judgment. She was charged with discipline in section 301.452(b)(9),(10),(12), and (13) nursing license in which she will never be able to practice as a Registered Nurse in the state of Texas.

A measure that could have protected her license was taking the correct dose of the medication and possibly going to therapy to support her mental health through her divorce and life issues. Another way this could have prevented her losing her license would be to take a break from work until she is able to figure things out. Another way to prevent danger to the patients would be to possibly not take the medication during her shift or switching the medication.

The first action as a prudent nurse, I would have reported the situation to the nurse manager. Due to her abuse of the medication, Freeman is not able to make proper decision making and proper assessments, which can ultimately put the patients in great danger. I as a nurse should report the situation to the charge nurse as well so she can get sent home to prevent more possible damage. Another thing I could do is teach

about substance abuse and help her by giving her information about the cons, and giving her information such as support classes.