

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Haylea Cowart Date: 01/24/2023 DAS Assignment # \_3\_ (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Stephanie Astin Cole

License number of the defendant: 879949

Date action was taken against the license: June 24, 2018

Type of action taken against the license: revoked

The respondent was charged with 4 different charges that are against licensure jurisdiction and grounds of a licensure revocation. The charges included; false documentation in regards to Oxycodone, misappropriated Oxycodone to help with cost for either patient or facility, Opiates found within a urine specimen given for drug test, and lastly falsified signatures in regards to 5 patients with 5 different nurses signatures. Not only was the respondent misusing medication for patients and not documenting properly along with falsifying signatures on patient files in the MAR. while doing all these inappropriate actions directly to patients under her care the respondent was using drugs herself and under the influence of opiates while caring for patients. All of her actions put all of the respondents' patients at major risk for serious health complications and did not provide adequate care for any of the patients that were supposed to be under her care.

I believe as though there is so many different measures that could have been taken to prevent the actions that the respondent was charged with. For starters I feel as though the respondent should of started with proper medication administration of the medications she was found guilty of wrongly handling. The easiest yet most important step of the medication process was totally ignored which is documentation. Documentation alone cannot only save your career it can also save your patients' lives; it is there for a reason and done so often to ensure the safety of your patients at any point in the hospital. Due to the use of the opioids it makes sense as to why all these mistakes were made, as the respondent was not in her right state of mind which just goes to show how important it is to not use drugs while in the role of "nurse". As a nurse your job gets stressful, emotionally draining, physically taxing, and just overall really hard and those are the moments we need to lean on any support systems we may have. Opioids are easily accessible to nurses and if you do not properly take care of yourself whenever things get hard, I can see how some people would lean to the easy coping method but you have to think about how many lives you are putting in harms way when doing that. Not only are you ruining your entire career but you are putting people in the hands of someone who is not mentally capable of keeping them alive to the best of the caretakers ability. As a nurse one thing that is just as important as our role of being a nurse is making sure we nurse ourselves.

One of the main universal competencies violated by the respondent was lack of documentation, the medications listed in the charges were not scanned in, documented as given, nor was there even documentation to even save. Professional role and documentation were two universal competencies violated within the same charge, which was falsifying signatures for 5 patients. Not only is that charge just outright unethical in all aspects that is wrongful documentation as the signatures were not legit signatures in regard to 5

different patients. The professional role universal competency was not only violated in regard to the falsified signatures it was violated again whenever the respondent was under the influence of opioids while on the job. I feel as though that charge goes against the universal competency of human caring as well because while under the influence of opioids you are not able to fully listen and attend to the needs of your patients nor can you help involve them with their own care as you yourself are not even fully fit to provide them with the care they need. The major universal competency that all the charges filed against the respondent violates is the safety and security; the patients were not safe, nor were they securely taken care of in any sense.

If I was to notice the respondent falsifying signatures within the eMAR for a patient let alone several patients I would immediately tell my charge nurse but also continue to go higher up the chain of command and make sure it was going to get handled. I would never want someone that I love or care about to get a signature falsified while under someone's care in the hospital, so I would do everything in my power to make sure that it did not occur to anyone else's someone. I personally do not know how easily I would know if the respondent was using opioids or not unless I saw them getting them out of the pyxis falsely or acting insanely out of their normal character or lethargic. If that was the case I would go to the charge nurse immediately and let her know, as well as talk to the respondent and see if I could find the reason as to why she was pulling out the opioids inappropriately. If I noticed the respondent acting lethargic, I would ask if they are okay and if there's anything I can do to help them out, I would also notify the charge nurse that the respondent was not acting as one should on the job.