

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Makenna Awtry
#3

Date: 2/3/2023

DAS Assignment:

Name of the defendant: Adriana DeLaTorre
License number of the defendant: 972690

Date action was taken against the license: 7/22/2021

Type of action taken against the license: Probated Suspension

Use the space below to describe the event which led to the action(s) 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.

In this event, the registered nurse working in El Paso, TX, failed to respond, assess, or intervene with their patient that had been hypotensive for about three hours. She also failed to document communications with the patient's doctor, as well as failing to document administering an order of saline infusion for the patient. Eventually, the patient went into hemorrhagic shock and was transferred to the ICU after the rapid response team had been called. Unfortunately, the patient's condition was unable to improve from the situation and they expired the next morning. In this scenario, the registered nurse failed to assess and/or intervene for their patient when conditions worsened and vital signs were unstable, failed to document healthcare provider communication, and failed to document medication administration.

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.

I believe the main action that should have been done by this nurse would be to assess and intervene for their patient. If this had been done properly and timely, it is possible that the patient would not have been hypotensive for three hours and their condition could have improved with proper communication with the provider and administration of fluids or blood transfusions to alter the low blood volume and pressure. This action would have prevented the most amount of harm to the patient and could have potentially saved their life before it was too late. Next, the nurse should have

documented any and all communications made with the primary healthcare provider, as well as the administration of the fluids if they were done, if she would have done so, it might have just covered her a little bit more.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

The universal competencies that were violated by not assessing and intervening with the patient fall under the categories of patient physical safety, critical thinking, and human caring. The nurse failed to be the patient's advocate and provide the best level of care that she was capable of doing. I believe this is extremely important because in the devastating event that a patient dies under my care, I want to honestly be able to tell their family that I did everything I could with the best care possible to help their family member. In this situation, the nurse would not truly be able to say that. Next, the nurse failed to document conversations with the doctor, as well as administration of fluid infusions which falls again under patient physical safety, critical thinking, documentation, communication, and human caring.

Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first 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 first to find out about the nurse's failure to intervene and failure to document, I would first respond to the patient's condition status and ensure they are either stable or able to be transferred to the level of care that they need. I would ensure that the charge nurse and unit managers are aware that the nurse failed on multiple tasks and violated many universal competencies which likely led to the patient's condition worsening dramatically. I believe this nurse should be disciplined in their work and receive the proper education and training necessary to reinforce facility policies, as well as basic patient care as a nurse.