

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Shallas Taylor

Date: 2/2/23

DAS Assignment # ____3____ (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Ashley Adrienne Cates

License number of the defendant: 738266

Date action was taken against the license: 7/19/2012

Type of action taken against the license: Warning with Stipulations

The defendant was charged with the following: failure to document and failure to notify the provider of abnormal lab results in a timely manner. The first charge came as a result of the defendant not reporting abnormal lab results to the physician in a timely manner, which could and did delay treatment. The second charge was the result of the defendant not correctly documenting vital signs, specifically, the blood pressure until there was an obvious sign of a problem which led to the discovery of this patient having sepsis and multi-organ failure.

A few different measures that could have prevented the defendant from not reporting in a timely manner to the physician the abnormal lab results is better prioritization of task, critical thinking, and time management. The defendant stated that she had several patients on her caseload and that it was not until she had a break that she saw the lab results of this particular patient. Managing her time between patients may have assisted in preventing this charge from happening as she may have seen the lab results sooner. Assuming that the defendant was given some type of report on this patient either as a new patient intake or during shift report she should have been aware of the patient's history. Using that knowledge and the understanding that pCO₂ and blood gas levels are typically used in helping identify a patient in respiratory failure the defendant should have thought more critically and prioritized looking for the results of those labs. A measure that could have prevented the defendant from failing to document is consistency in documentation. Having a consistent routine in terms of documentation lowers the chance of "forgetting" as it becomes second nature. Having consistent documentation of vital signs would have also made it easier for the defendant to notice the patient's decline more rapidly. In terms of both charges had the defendant correctly notified the physician and documented correctly, this could have saved this patient's life. It was later noted that the patient had both sepsis and multi-organ failure, and it was ultimately decided by the physician's order to let the patient die naturally. I cannot stop thinking if maybe the outcome would have been different had the defendant reported the lab results sooner and documented vital signs correctly.

The defendant violated the critical thinking universal competency by not prioritizing looking for lab results which resulted in the delay of care. The defendant also violated the documentation universal competency by

not documenting vital signs, which was a direct indication of the patient's declining health. The defendant violated safety and security (emotional) competency by not promoting trust or respect between the defendant and the patient. As a patient, we count on our nurses to provide the care we need to get better. In this instance, the defendant did not honor that trust by failing to document and report to the physician which could be a direct result of why the patient did not recover from this event.

Had I been the nurse to discover this patient's lab levels I would immediately phone the doctor, inform the charge nurse and follow my facility's protocol for instances such as this. If the doctor is unavailable, I would keep trying or allow the charge nurse to try until either of us reaches him to ensure that this lab result does not get overlooked. Had I discovered that the defendant had not been documenting vital signs, I would inform the charge nurse. I would also go ahead and get a new set of vital signs and make sure to document those from that point moving forward so that we could have a more accurate picture of how the patient is doing.