

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Madison North Date: 2/10/2023 DAS Assignment # 4 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Agatha Ugochi Oporum License number of the defendant: RN684076

Date action was taken against the license: May 3, 2013

Type of action taken against the license: Voluntary Surrender

Use the space below to describe the events 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.

On November 11th, 2011, Ms. Oporum was convicted of a conspiracy to commit health care fraud. This scheme was committed between November 2008 through November 2010. I would consider this crime a HIPAA violation because of the fraudulent healthcare information seen and the breach in privacy by the nurses involved.

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 think if the nurse would have maintained integrity and respected her patients, then the charge would have been prevented. Medical professionals can maintain integrity by refraining from giving confidential information to others, honesty, and keep promises. Nurses are entrusted with vital medical information about their patients; furthermore, nurses need to a good moral compass when and should understand fraudulent actions will certainly harm the patient. Also, if the nurse would have known of the maximum jail time and fines along with the criminal charge of conspiring to commit healthcare fraud.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Safety & Security – Patient confidentiality (HIPPA): The patient confidentiality was broken when she committed fraud against HIPPA rules. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act was enacted by the United States Health and Human Services to protect patient's sensitive health information which could be used against their will. Ultimately, this harms the patient by disclosing medical treatment, procedures, and payments.

Safety & Security – Promote trust and respect: When a nurse violates the trust a patient has for a medical professional, then the patient loses faith in hospitals and will not blindly trust their nurses and doctors. The patient is in a vulnerable state in the nurse's care, so when a nurse uses their position to take advantage of their patient that is violating the trust and respect of the patient. HIPPA is the medical information of the patient; this is precious and should not be disclosed to the public by nurse intending to commit fraud.

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 found about these nurses attempting to commit healthcare fraud, I would immediately tell my charge nurse, my superiors, and human resources to prevent any of the patients' information from being compromised. Moreover, I would want to tell the patient about the possible break in security because they have a right to know about the situation. I would attempt to regain some of the trust that was lost and give them some resources to help them in this position.