

Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Haylee Cruz

Date: February 10th, 2023

DAS Assignment # 4

Name of the defendant: Maria V. Acosta

License number of the defendant: 698069

Date action was taken against the license: November 12th, 2018

Type of action taken against the license: Remedial Education with Fine

*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.*

-Charge 1: Texas Administration Code: Unprofessional Conduct - Unsafe Practice: Misconduct

-Around October 17th, 2017, Maria Acosta admitted to staff at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas that she took a photo of an infants genitals without parental consent with the intention to send it to her husband. In doing she, Acosta violated this patients confidentiality, right to privacy, and professional boundaries of the nurse/client relationship.

-In the case of Maria Acosta, to retain her license she was required to complete 3 education courses with a fine of \$250. The courses include 6 hour minimum on "Jurisprudence and Ethics", including confidentiality, standards of practice, and professional boundaries. A 3.6 hour course on "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills", and a 5.4 hour course on "Patient Privacy."

*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 that Acosta could have prevented this violation of patient privacy if she would have stopped to think about how this action could affect the infants and parents life, (present and future), and how this would affect her professional career if (and when) this eventually came to light. I think if she would have put herself in the parent's shoes, that she would have felt differently about the choices she made. I also believe if she would have thought back to her schooling as a nurse, she would clearly know how this is a complete break of the patient/nurse relationship, and how this would break trust with a patient and their family.

*Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.*

-There were many universal competencies violated in this case, including:

-Safety and Security (Physical and Emotional): This competency was clearly violated because Acosta failed to implement measures to promote a safe environment to her client and their family. She also failed to respect the client's right to privacy (HIPPA) by exposing confidential information about this client. By sending her husband of this infant's genitals, this could have multiple cascading effects on the child in the future. Especially because we don't know what the husband or herself would have done with that photo and client information moving forward, or in the future of this child's life. She also violated promoting trust and respect with the client's family.

-Human Caring: Acosta clearly violated this by not treating this infant or their family with respect and dignity. She again, did not give the provision of privacy.

-Professional Role: Acosta violated this professional boundary of the nurse/client relationship under the Texas administration code including "physical, sexual, and emotional exploitation of the client." This also follows by her interaction with the clients family.

*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 were to be the nurse on shift to have discovered this action, I would immediately report this to the charge nurse. I would also have a difficult time not bringing it to Acosta's attention myself immediately, as this action shows lack of morals, respect, caring for an innocent infant, and almost every other value we as nurses are expected to uphold.