

**Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2**

**Student Name:** Makenna Awtry

**Date:** 2/10/23

**DAS Assignment:** #4

**Name of the defendant:** Langley, Rebecca Lynne

**License number of the defendant:** 595505

**Date action was taken against the license:** 6/8/21

**Type of action taken against the license:** Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine

**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, Langley, failed to assess a patient's peripheral IV site from 1500 to the end of the shift. The nurse had also falsely documented that the IV site had been assessed properly at 1819. The oncoming nurse was notified that there was something wrong with the IV site at 1944. The patient's arm was found to be reddened and swollen with edema. The nurse found that the previously "assessed" IV site had been infiltrated and caused edema to the patient's entire arm, along with skin blisters and discolored fingers. This terrible incident and failure to assess and document honestly caused injury to the patient and ended up delaying a surgical procedure and medications that were scheduled for that patient.

**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.**

The day shift nurse should have properly assessed the IV site as indicated by standard nursing protocol. Furthermore, she should not have falsely documented that the IV site had been assessed and was working properly. Since she did this, the IV infiltration progressed further and caused severe complications to the patient's extremity and veins. By properly assessing the patient and documenting, severe complications could have likely been avoided and the patient's care, including surgery and medications, would not have been delayed.

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

In this situation, the nurse violated the universal competency of critical thinking by not properly assessing the patient's peripheral IV site. She also violated the documentation competency by falsely documenting that the IV site was assessed properly and that there were no complications. I believe this nurse also violated the professional nursing role competency by failing to do these actions altogether as it resulted in a lack of patient care and advocacy.

**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 person to discover that my patient's IV site had been infiltrated and severe complications had occurred, such as a discolored and swollen extremity, I would first remove the impaired IV catheter and assess the catheter tip and site to ensure it is removed properly and assess for any drainage or redness near the site. Then, I would cleanse the site and follow protocol for an infiltrated, inflamed, and swollen insertion site and extremity. Next, I would look at the patient's eMAR to see when the IV was last assessed and if there were any problems noted since it would be likely that it would have occurred from day shift and the previous nurse should have informed me of the situation. After seeing that nothing of the sort was charted, I would go to the charge nurse to inform them and management of the serious situation.

I believe that this nurse definitely needs educational and verbal review of nursing protocols for assessing patient status and IV sites routinely as well as the causes and clinical manifestations of an infiltrated IV site and how to intervene when one occurs. I also believe that the nurse should be disciplined in some way at their workplace as this event was simply caused by ignorance and failure to complete basic nursing duties of assessing and documenting.