

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Star Harlin Date: 03/10/2023

DAS Assignment # ____1____ (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Elizabeth Ann Fox License number of the defendant: 582396

Date action was taken against the license: 04/16/2015

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

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.

Elizabeth Fox on July 7, 2012, while taking care of her patient at East Texas Medical Center in Athens, Texas, on her own accord withdrew Phenergan from the medical pyxis and administered the medication without consulting the doctor or having a written order to give the medication to the patient. “Phenergan is used to treat allergy symptoms such as itching, runny nose, sneezing, itchy or watery eyes, hives, and itchy skin rashes. Phenergan also prevents motion sickness and treats nausea and vomiting or pain after surgery. It is also used as a sedative or sleep aid.” According to Drugs.com there are many severe adverse effects that could take place when a patient takes Phenergan so depending on the diagnosis and/or allergies the patient has, she could have really hurt her patient. Unfortunately, this error was not an isolated incident Elizabeth Fox continued to show behavior problems by showing up to work with smell of alcohol on her breath several times as well as committing a Class B misdemeanor that landed her in jail for 30 days.

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.

One of the biggest things she should have done is advocated for her patient. If her patient was experiencing vomiting or nausea she should have gone to the Physician and asked for something to be prescribed to help her patient. Instead, she made the decision herself to go ahead and pull the medication from the pyxis and give the medication herself. She also could have given the wrong dose to the patient, which could have resulted in serious harm or death. The question now is, did she give the medication to help her patient or to cause harm? Miss. Fox acted in a way that did not promote trust and respect to her patient or to the physician. Elizabeth Fox should have taken her role as a nurse more seriously. Her actions proved that she was irresponsible in the hospital and in her own personal life as well and this ultimately resulted in her nursing license being revoked.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Miss. Fox violated the 7 Rights for Medication administration by giving a medication without proper documentation, reasoning, and dose. She should have had an order before giving the medication, she did not have any reasoning behind why she gave the medication to the patient. We do not know if the medication was given to

harm her patient or not and she gave a dose of medication without a proper order so she could have given a dose that was too much and that can cause toxicity or anaphylaxis to the patient. She also violated her patient by ignoring protocol and giving Phenergan without an order. Miss. Fox also was irresponsible by coming to work after drinking alcoholic beverages this could have resulted in more harm to her patients because she could have been altered and not thinking clearly when performing nursing actions and this could have resulted in harming her patient with the Phenergan. Overall, the nurse displayed an unprofessional role by her actions, and she did not treat her patient with respect or care.

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 was the nurse who came across this situation, I would report it to the charge nurse immediately! One of the many reasons why I want to become a nurse is to help people and that essentially is one of the biggest roles we have as nurses is to advocate and care for our patients. Our patients deserve to be respected and cared for no matter what the circumstances are! Patients come to be seen because they trust health care professionals to help them, patients should not have to worry about coming in and dealing with an unprofessional health care worker that can harm them. We as nurses are meant to protect, care, and do what is right by our patients!

Citations:

DOCKET NUMBER 507 15 1078 (Texas Board of Nursing April 16, 2015).

Phenergan uses, dosage & side effects. Drugs.com. (n.d.). Retrieved March 10, 2023, from <https://www.drugs.com/phenergan.html>