

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Hope Robnett Date: 3/20/23 DAS Assignment # 1 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Sosamma Abraham License number of the defendant: 585236

Date action was taken against the license: 18 - Dec - 12

Type of action taken against the license: Reprimand with Stipulations

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.

Mrs. Abraham "failed to obtain and/or document blood glucose checks every two (2) hours," for a patient with multiple health complications including, "uncontrolled diabetes, ESRD, Hepatitis C, multiple amputations, and erratic blood glucose levels." Due to the nurse's negligence and irresponsibility, the patient was found diaphoretic and unresponsive, and when sugar was checked, the patient had a level of twenty-six. The patient was coded and transferred to ICU, where they expired three days after being removed from life support. Mrs. Abraham claimed that she had been checking the patient's sugars every two hours as ordered but failed to document her results.

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.

After reading this case, the best course of action that should have been taken to prevent this incident was proper documentation. The nurse should have doubled-checked her charting and seen that she hadn't been documenting her patient's glucose levels. In her statement, Mrs. Abraham mentions that she contacted the physician about the patient's glucose levels and taken the appropriate actions at that time to increase the patient's glucose levels. The nurse should have also documented her conversation with the physician, indicating that she had taken some sort of action. Mrs. Abraham should have also know that this patient needed extra monitoring because of their unstable glucose levels, especially with how low they had been running prior.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Mrs. Abraham violated universal competencies related to critical thinking; she should have used her critical thinking skills to realize that this patient needed closer monitoring and further observation because of their glucose levels. In the report given by the BON it states that the nurse had the attending doctor make a statement of her behalf and he stated that "...this patient low blood sugar and code status as well as resp. and cardiac arrest were due to his own original Non-compliant Diabetic related problems." From this statement, we can also support a violation in the universal competency surrounding communication, where it's a nurse's job

to help teach their patients on safety and best practices for themselves. Then, the biggest one, documentation. There were no records that the nurse had obtained a glucose check from this patient, yet she states she did and called the physician about it. If the nurse had properly documented, then there would have been records showing proof that she really had been checking the patient's sugar levels and not going just off assumption.

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.

I would talk with the nurse who was responsible for that patient during that time and have them one, check their documentation, and two take immediate action. If a patient has that low of a sugar, then the nurse should start offering different noninvasive things, such as juice or something with sugar in it, to the patient to help raise their sugar and then recheck it. If their sugar levels still aren't rising, I would then speak with the charge nurse or call the physician to see what their orders are for this patient and see about getting medication order for the patient.