

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Hope Robnett

Date: 3/27/23

DAS Assignment # 2 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Heather Elizabeth Bemrose

License number of the defendant: 732767

Date action was taken against the license: 18 – Jan - 13

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.

The nurse in review, Ms. Heather Elizabeth Bemrose, had several infarctions leading up to her review. At the time, Ms. Bemrose was serving as a registered nurse at Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center where reports started to be filed about her dispensing several medications, such as Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone, and Diazepam in excess frequencies and/or dosages. Several accounts followed her initial misconduct, Ms. Bemrose would take dispense several strong meds at once in excess quantities, where she would then fail to properly document where and to who the meds were given. Reports were also filed showing that Ms. Bemrose performed several malpractices when administering her medications; there were several instances where the nurse failed to administer patients ordered medications within a timely manner, some two or three hours after they were initially scheduled. These incidents kept recurring from her initial infarction in 2007, and other instances where she also failed to show up for several mandatory drug screenings, and finally agreed and signed to have her license revoked in 2011.

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.

Ms. Bemrose repeatedly stole medications from her hospitals dispensing units for her own personal use, which put herself, her fellow co-workers, and patients in harm's way. I believe stricter actions should have been taken against Ms. Bemrose to get her both psychological and physical help in her addiction. If the facilities also knew about her struggles, they shouldn't have allowed her to return to work without valid proof that she was healthy and in the proper state of mind to work.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

The universal competency that Ms. Bemrose violated the most, in my opinion, is her professional role as the health care provider. She would take medications that were specific to her patients, and use them for her own self-interest, which put herself and her patients at great risks. If Ms. Bemrose was taking part of the medications for herself, that means her patients weren't always getting their needed dose of medication, which also violates the universal competency of safety and security, where a patient has the seven rights for medication administration, which includes the right dose. Ms. Bemrose also failed to document accurately, she would document that she had given the full vial of a medication when it was supposed to be a certain dose, and/or not document at all but the dispensing unit showed that she had pulled the medications.

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 to discover that a fellow co-worker was taking the same actions as Ms. Bemrose, I would immediately report the incident to my supervisor because I know that if under a strong influence it can lead to significant dangers for everyone around and involved with that nurse. I would also try to act as normal as possible around the co-worker because I know I don't want to make any hasty actions that will cause the nurse in question to become panicked all the sudden, and possibly do harm to herself or her patients.