

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Veronica Loera
2 _____ (1-4)

Date: 03/31/2023

DAS Assignment #

Name of the defendant: Jennifer Erin Jonas

License number of the defendant: RN 694133

Date action was taken against the license: 11/21/2007

Type of action taken against the license: Voluntary Surrender

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.

On June 6th, 2007, Jennifer Jonas appeared to not be able to functionally perform nursing duties while at work. She had slurred speech while on the job, she was unable to coordinate her thoughts. She had exaggerated body mechanics with very red eyes. She constantly talked about unrelated things pertaining to her work while laughing inappropriately and was unable to complete patient procedures. On the same date, Jennifer tested positive for Butalbital, Codeine and Morphine. She did not have a prescription for this Barbiturate and Opiates. Jennifer had liver failure, and was denied a liver transplant due to elevated liver enzymes possibly caused by abuse of drugs. She also took Synthroid to mimic a Hyper/Hypo Thyroid Diagnosis. In a notarized statement made by Jennifer, states she took prescribed medication before work for a migraine, not realizing it would impact her the way it did. She chose not to participate in the TPAPN program because she believes it was not appropriate for her and her family. She stated she was diagnosed with Grave's Disease and treats it with Synthroid. She states she does not need a liver transplant and the use of drugs did not contribute to her liver failure. She stated she is upset there are false accusations and has decided to voluntarily surrender her nursing license. The board accepted her notarized statement and stated she is not to practice nursing or use the title of abbreviation "registered nurse" or wear anything that symbolizes her being a nurse. She cannot reinstate her license until one year has passed from the date September 21st 2007, and she has to provide verifiable proof she has completed sobriety of a year.

Jennifer Jonas (December 2006-March 2007) Fraudulent, Unauthorized oral or telephonically communicated Ultram/Tramadol and Vicodin using the name and Drug Enforcement Agency number of a physician.

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 medication room, break room and restroom could have big posters of reminders with detailed information to nurses of why not to do drugs, and the importance of patient safety. It would be something nurses would constantly see and be reminded of the repercussions of taking drugs. The pharmacy could have said they are also going to need a physicians order with the physicians signature to verify the order. The pharmacy could of said they want to speak to the ordering physician or facetime to verify the order that is always made over the phone by this particular nurse for these same drugs.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Communication and Professional Role. Jennifer Jonas could not communicate verbally with her slurred speech, which means she could not communicate with her patients as she was having trouble with her thought process. She was laughing inappropriately which could have been offensive to some patients as being rude, inconsiderate, and unprofessional.

Critical Thinking. Jennifer was not able to make proper decisions to prioritize tasks as needed. She was under the influence of drugs that affected her mentality, being unable to have good judgement to provide the best care for her patients.

Human Caring. Jennifer did not treat her patients with respect and dignity while being under the influence of drugs. She was supposed to make her patients feel safe as their nurse, not jeopardize their life with possibly given a wrong medication or wrong dosage that could of led to a serious health issue, or even death.

Documentation. Jennifer would of not been able to accurately document medication scans or how patient is feeling or doing when she is unable to function correctly while under the influence of drugs. This would lead to a lot of errors without proper documentation.

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 ask another nurse to distract Jennifer, so she does not walk into a patients room while I go find the charge nurse. I would ask the charge nurse if she wants me to assess Jennifer's patients to see if she given them meds, check their vital signs and documentation.