

Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Hannah Mullen

Date: 04/06/2023

DAS Assignment # 3

Name of the defendant: Gary Keith Johnson

License number of the defendant: 625064

Date action was taken against the license: December 12, 2013

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.*

Event 1:

On October 25, 2011, Johnson neglected to ensure that the emergency physician or attending orthopedic physician were present and/or notified during the administration of Fentanyl and Dilaudid via IV. This had the possibility of adverse reactions or death of a patient with no physician being readily available.

Event 2:

On October 25, 2011, Johnson did not ensure that emergency rescue equipment was at the bedside and readily available prior to administering Fentanyl and Dilaudid. This equipment included a Bag-Valve mask, suction, and narcotic reversal agents. As a result, the patient developed respiratory depression. Johnson then had to leave the patient's room to access medication from the Pyxis system.

Event 3:

On October 25, 2011, Johnson did not consistently perform assessments nor document the vital signs while administering the IV medications. Subsequently, there was an incomplete medical record for the patient, this made it so future caregivers did not have correct or reliable information to base care on.

*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.*

I believe that there were countless steps that could have prevented injury. Based on the document, it appears that it would be mandatory to notify a physician and/or have a physician in the room while administering the Fentanyl and Dilaudid via IV. Each event could possibly be prevented if Johnson would have notified the physician(s) to be aware of or witness the administration of the medications. Next would be to ensure that the room was equipped with items necessary, these items would have been detrimental to the patient because the patient went into respiratory depression. Johnson also should not have left the patient's

bedside and rather have called for assistance. Lastly, Johnson should have constantly assessed and documented vital signs during the administration of Fentanyl and Dilaudid.

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

I assume that Johnson violated standard precautions of administering IV narcotics by not notifying the physician(s) or having the physician(s) in the room while administering the medication. This would also violate the communication universal competencies, and would be interprofessional communication rather than with a patient. Johnson has also violated the professional role universal competency of managing equipment efficiently, this is evident by the lack of emergency equipment at the patient's bedside and having to leave the bedside to obtain equipment. Lastly, Johnson also neglected to follow the documentation universal competencies when he did not document the patient's vital signs consistently during the Fentanyl and Dilaudid administration.

*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 think that a prudent nurse would alert the physician(s) before Johnson started to administer the narcotics, and if not before at the very least during. They would also get the emergency rescue equipment upon realizing that there is no equipment at the bedside, while ensuring that there was still someone with the patient. In addition to this, a prudent nurse would ensure that someone, either themselves or Johnson, stayed with the patient while the other alerted others and obtained medication from the Pyxis. They would also ensure that vital signs are being monitored closely and documented. I think another important step after ensuring the patient is safe and not at risk for further decline, would be to report the situation to the necessary people so this situation could not occur again.