

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Kallie Ybarra

Date: 4/10/23

DAS Assignment # 4

Name of the defendant: Thomas Lee Tripp License number of the defendant: [868678](#)

Date action was taken against the license: 12/14/2021

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.

Thomas Lee Tripp was a registered nurse at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, Texas at the time of the incident which led to his license getting revoked. On November 22, 2018, Thomas Tripp reported in his documentation that he administered 3 tablets (PO) of Lactulose, a stool softener, to his patient. However, the patient was unable to take these meds because of their inability to swallow due to their altered mental status (Findings of Facts 7, pg.2) . The respondent inaccurately documented as well as documented ahead of time which should never be done because of situations like these occurring, where the patient is unable to take the medication as ordered. This puts the patient at risk, as well as the other nurses who rely on accurate documentation of the patient they are receiving. In response to this same incident, Mr. Tripp failed to notify the patient's healthcare provider that the patient was unable to take the medication which impeded further medical care (Finding of Facts 8, Pg.2). In the hours following the respondent then attempted to place a nasogastric tube (NG tube) and was unsuccessful without an order from the healthcare provider. Mr. Tripp did not notify the provider of his unsuccessful attempt, which placed the patient at risk for trauma and possible aspiration (Finding of Facts 9, pg.3). Mr. Tripp's same patient began experiencing difficulty breathing with an oxygen saturation ranging from 83-91%, coarse rales in lungs and required increased oxygen support, which should have prompted him to call the rapid response team (RRT) as his patient's conditions were decreasing significantly. His patient, unfortunately, suffered from a cardiopulmonary arrest and demised (Findings of Facts 10, pg. 3)

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.

Everything that Thomas Lee Tripp failed to do could have prevented action taken against his license as well as prevented harm to the patient. We are taught at the beginning of nursing school how important it is to document. We are also taught the right and wrong of documenting.

There is no reason that Mr. Tripp should have documented the administration of Lactulose ahead of time other than the fact that he was trying to save himself the trouble. He should have just documented that he was unable to administer the medication due to the patient's altered mental status and notified the healthcare provider, and waited to see what the HCP had to say. Mr. Tripp by no means should have attempted to place the NG tube without an order, this is putting the patient through an invasive procedure that could have resulted in harm. Lastly, It is a possibility that if the respondent notified the rapid response team when he saw significant changes in his patient's status and took the right corrective actions with the help of the RRT that the patient may not have passed away at that time.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Safety and Security (Physical): The nurse failed to do proper documentation during the 7 rights of medication administration. As well as failed to make sure the patient was able to even take the medication being administered before documenting that it was given.

Critical Thinking: The nurse did not display any critical thinking when providing care to the patient, for example, the nurse did not notify the Rapid Response Team, nor got an order to make sure that placing an NG tube was the right course of action for this patient.

Human Caring: The nurse did not necessarily “listen” to the needs of the patient when their status was declining.

Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first 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 witnessed any one of these violations that Thomas Tripp instilled I would have immediately notified the charge nurse or someone of high authority. We as nurses should pride ourselves in providing the absolute best care for our patients, and rely on other nurses' integrity to make sure that this happens. It is also devastating to know that all of these were preventable and should never have happened in the first place. There is no excuse for any of these violations. I would hope that after I relayed my concerns to the charge nurse or whomever that action would be taken immediately towards the nurse.