Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Katelyn Kelley   Date: 4/13/23   DAS Assignment # **4** (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Laura Carmina Grimaldo   License number of the defendant: 716018

Date action was taken against the license: October 27th, 2014

Type of action taken against the license: This nurse's license was suspended in the meeting immediately. This was due to the danger the RN put herself and her patients in.

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 first charge against the nurse is for her injecting herself with 15ml of Diprivan while she was on the job. This put not only her life at risk but her patients' lives as well. The second charge was for leaving her assignment without informing anyone. She was found down in a bathroom an hour later with bloody tissues and discarded IV tubing. The third charge was again leaving the unit and her assignment without notifying anyone. When she returned, she was unfit to work, stumbling around, altered mental status, and general impairment. The staff found a Heparin1Lock in her arm which could have altered her decision making. The fourth and final charge against the nurse, was for being found barely conscious in the bathroom. She was found to have injected herself with Diprivan and had a Heparin1Lock in her arm with a needle still attached. She was taken to the ER and then admitted to the Behavioral Health Unit for treatment.

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.

If there were further investigation when the nurse was first found injecting herself with meds, she may have been able to get the help that she needed. This nurse is clearly struggling with something and seeks out meds for a reason. There definitely should have been an intervention after the first incident to get to the bottom of why the nurse is using.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Safety and Security (Emotional) was violated because the nurse broke the trust of her patients' by leaving them alone with no coverage. She went to use drugs and left her patients without another nurse knowing so if there was an emergency, the patient could get help. She did this multiple times as well. Communication was violated as the nurse never told anyone that she was going to leave the floor and her assignments. Human Caring was violated because the nurse abandoned her assignments multiple times to go take meds. She told no one that she was leaving, and this left her patients vulnerable and possible harm could have occurred. The nurses Professional Role was broken as well. She is a nurse using drugs to either get high or cause harm to

herself. This stains not only her image but the image of nursing to be responsible and caring. She was not professional going to use drugs in the bathroom.

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 had discovered the nurse doing this, I would have reported her to the charge and supervisor and advocated for her to get help. I would assist her in finding help if she needed it as well. If I saw her do this again, I would further advocate for her and try to get her off the floor and to some help. She is harming her patients and we do not need her to work on the floor. She clearly needs to get help because she could be going through things. I do not understand why the hospitals continued to allow her to work and not help her find resources for counseling and therapy.