

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Hannah Mullen

Date: April 14, 2023

DAS Assignment # 4

Name of the defendant: Douglas John Myers

License number of the defendant: 596124

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

Type of action taken against the license: Reprimand with Stipulations

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 September 26, 2010 Myers took over a patient from another nurse while they were on a lunch break. This patient was to be monitored as they were recently extubated. During this time Myers left the floor to transfer his own patient. While he was gone, it was found that alarms were going off due to the extubated patient's leads becoming disconnected. The patient's nurse came back from lunch to discover this and that the patient had a heart rate of 34 bpm. The patient's nurse then called a code, which ended successfully, but the patient consequently suffered from an anoxic brain injury and died two weeks afterwards.

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.

According to Myers, he had notified other nurses that he was leaving the unit and had thought that the nurse was also back from their lunch break. Because of this, I believe that the main preventative measure would have been to fully ensure that the nurse was back from their break and to hold off on transferring the patient. If he was unable to hold off on transferring the patient, Myers should have asked another coworker for assistance in monitoring the patient or transferring his own patient. I believe that this would have prevented the following events and death of the patient, as well of the actions taken against Myers license. Another measure would have been to assess the patient's leads to ensure they were connected and to assess the patient's vital signs. Assessing the patient's vital signs would have likely alerted Myers to the situation at hand and he and/or other staff would be able to prevent the events leading to the code.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Myers violated the critical thinking universal competencies in many ways. The first way being the prioritization of tasks. Monitoring the patient who was extubated should have taken place over the transfer of the patient. The second one being that Myers should have done assessments related to the extubation, this would include heart rate, respiratory rate, and oxygenation. The patient had a very low heart rate and likely low oxygen saturation due to the respiratory anoxic event. The second universal competency violated was the professional role, in which Myers should have had interprofessional communication with the nurse on break

and the other nurses on shift before transferring his own patient. Another competency violated would be safety and security, in which Myers should have continued to monitor the patient in order to promote safety, as well as performed vital signs to do the same.

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 believe that a prudent nurse would have acknowledged that Myers was leaving the floor and take over monitoring the patient or ask if Myers needed assistance in transferring the patient. A prudent nurse may also ensure that the patient's nurse was back from their break. I also would have acknowledged the alarm going off, as no other nurse did, which would have possibly prevented the anoxic brain injury and/or death if the issue were discovered and a code was called earlier on. Because the patient was harmed and later died, I would also report the events myself or ensure that Myers self-reported the events.