Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Lauren Dane   Date: 08/24/23   DAS Assignment # ___1_____ (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Kathryn Bergeron   License number of the defendant: RN 804425

Date action was taken against the license: 05/08/2018.

Type of action taken against the license: Revocation

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.

Kathryn Bergeron was an RN working in Denison, TX. In April of 2015, it was discovered that she had been "misappropriating medications", such as Dilaudid, Demerol, Midazolam, and Fentanyl. All of which are controlled substances, being either an opioid or a benzodiazepine. Bergeron pulled these medications from the Pyxis, but failed to document that she administered these medications to her patients. This happened on several occasions at more than one facility. Bergeron admitted to relapsing, and she had been stealing these medications that were supposed to be given to her patients. The misappropriation of medications also happened in July of 2017, and September of 2017. She received Misappropriating Medication charges for all these occurrences.

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 the revocation of Bergeron's license was the appropriate action for the Texas Board of Nursing to take. Patients weren't receiving their pain medications for severe pain, and the nurse was stealing them for her own use. One thing I think could have prevented this situation would have been for the nurse to reach out to some sort of mental health provider to help with her substance abuse. The facility should've also been reviewing their narcotic counts, because her failing to document administration of these medications should've been a huge red flag.

Bergeron was also participating in the Texas Peer Assistance program, which is a program for nurses who have a known substance use disorder, or other mental health conditions. This program is used to monitor and provide accountability for nurses who are struggling with such disorders. Had her peers in this assistance program held her accountable sooner, these instances might not have occurred.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Bergeron violated "documentation" by failing to document medications given (or not given) to her patients. She also violated critical thinking by not giving the medications to her patients, and instead using them for herself. It's also important to consider WHERE she was taking these medications after she stole them. Was she using these drugs while at work? There was potentially a violation of safety and security as well.

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.

After discovering a situation like this, a prudent nurse would immediately report these occurrences to the charge nurse and house supervisor. Not only was the nurse stealing from patients and the hospital, but she was abusing controlled substances. In this situation, patients' safety was at risk, and that is not something to take lightly.

I wanted to add that this situation is extremely sad to me. Substance use disorder is something that needs to always be taken seriously. I feel sad for this nurse, and I hope her story helps shed light on how important integrity and honesty are in the healthcare space. I hope her story also shows how important it is for nurses to take care of themselves, both their physical and mental health.