

Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Ty Skiles

Date: 8/23/2023

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Constance Maria Cyphert

License number of the defendant: 514645

Date action was taken against the license: 02/11/2014

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.*

There were two charges presented against Constance Maria Cyphert that led to the revocation of her professional nursing license. The first charge presented was that Ms. Cyphert failed to protect and advocate for a confused patient that was being actively abused and harassed by a local deputy sheriff in Reno, Nevada, during her shift. The 2<sup>nd</sup> charge presented against Ms. Cyphert was that of failure to report and document a medication error. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Ms. Cyphert doubled her patient's dose of valium without obtaining a provider's order. Ms. Cyphert never attempted to report this error to any of her superiors in the workplace chain of command.

*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 if Constance Cyphert had been more willing to come forth and advocate for the general wellbeing of her patient, then no harm would have occurred to her patients in either charge. Ms. Cyphert neglected her duty as a nurse when she made no attempt to report the negative actions of the sheriff antagonizing her patient to a fellow staff member. In a similar happenstance, after creating a medication error, Ms. Cyphert made no effort to report the incident to her charge nurse or to the patient's primary healthcare provider. This unwillingness to act is what contributed to the harm of both patients. I believe that better communication with her peers and the willingness to admit her own faults would have prevented action being taken against her license.

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

Maria Constance Cyphert violated the universal competencies of patient safety and security, critical thinking, and professional role when she failed to protect her patient from the sheriff that antagonized them. Patient safety and security was violated when Ms. Cyphert did nothing to promote a professional interaction with the sheriff. Ms. Cyphert failed to use her critical thinking skills when she prioritized her other nursing duties over protecting her patient. The universal competency of professional role was violated when Ms. Cyphert did not report the instance of abuse to her charge nurse or any other fellow staff members. In the second charge

presented against her, Constance Cyphert violated the patient's physical safety and security by failing to administer the proper dosage of valium. This also breached the 7 rights of medication 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.*

Upon viewing or discovering the incident that led to the first charge against the professional nursing license of Constance Maria Cyphert, I believe that a prudent nurse would immediately notify the charge nurse and any other superiors present of the sheriff's actions. I would then inform them of the patient's current mental state and physical status if it were attainable. I think it would be wise for the nurse to attempt to distract the sheriff's attention away from the patient in order to create a safe distance between the two. I hope that this would allow enough time for action to be taken that would lead to the removal of the sheriff from the premises of the medical facility in a legal and organized manner. Following the discovery of the medication error that led to the second charge against Ms. Cyphert's professional nursing license, I would immediately inform my peers and reassess the patient to determine what kind of reaction their body had to the improper dose of valium. I would then notify the patient's healthcare provider of the situation. I would also encourage my peers to be on standby in case the patient required any emergent procedures to help them regain homeostasis.