# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

## Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Gabriel Castro Date: 8/25/2023 DAS Assignment # 1 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Erin Nicole Curry License number of the defendant: 835038

Date action was taken against the license: November 24, 2015

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.*

The events that led to these charges states that the nurse failed to properly care for the patient by being negligent in their duty to the patient by not following the physician order to perform a scheduled neurological assessment every four hours, and for not reporting to the physician about the symptoms that the patient was experiencing. Which includes an elevated blood pressure and vomiting.

*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 would have taken the patient's vital signs and I would have been especially adamant on reporting any abnormal blood pressures. I would have also taken enough time to be as thorough as possible in my neurological assessments to first establish a base line and then make sure to compare my new assessments with my older assessments throughout my shift every four hours for any changes within the patients care and to make sure that my patient was showing any signs or symptoms of any type of distress. I would also notify the physician with any important changes in the patient's condition such as coughing, bleeding, vomiting, and any other conditions that could affect or worsen the initial admission of the patient which was related to having a subdural hematoma.

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

The universal competencies that were violated consist of Critical Thinking, and Communication. The nurse violated one of the key components of Critical Thinking by not initiating the neurological assessment that was ordered for the patient. In addition to the violation to Critical Thinking, the nurse also violated the Communication competency by not reporting to the physician that the patient had an elevated blood pressure with the signs of vomiting which could be a symptom of intracranial pressure.

*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.*

As a prudent nurse, I would first assess the patient and make sure that there is no need for any emergent or lifesaving protocols that would have to announced. Since the patient is not showing any signs or symptoms that are not life threatening, then I would perform a full neurological assessment on the patient per the doctor's order and reassess the patients' vital signs. If I found that the blood pressure was too high, then I would notify the physician and anticipate the need for labs to be drawn for any signs or symptoms of bleeding within the brain. I would then document any of the changes in status such as the patient vomiting and experiencing high blood pressure. I would also document any further changes in the patients care that occurred and I would also document any interventions I did to the patient because if it is not documented then it never happened. Afterwards once the patient has been taken care of, then I would file a report on the nurse to the human resources department and I would also report the nurse to the Texas Board of Nursing on their website. I would state that I am reporting this nurse for being negligent in their duties not only to the hospital but also to the patient by not following the doctor's order to obtain and reassess the neurological assessments that were scheduled every four hours. In addition to this negligence, I would also state that the nurse didn't notify the physician about the patient's elevated blood pressure and the sign of vomiting which could have resulted in the patient dying from the subdural hematoma that was present within the patient.