

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Lindsey McCormack
2_____ (1-4)

Date: 08/30/2023

DAS Assignment #

Name of the defendant: Matthew Alexander Uzquiano
83867

License number of the defendant:

Date action was taken against the license: June 29th, 2020

Type of action taken against the license: Enforced Suspension

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.

Charge 1. Controlled Substances

While employed as an RN at The Hospitals of Providence in El Paso, Matthew dispensed Versed and Fentanyl without having another RN verify for wastage. The protocol is any narcotic must be wasted by another nurse, and he did not follow that. This charge left medication unaccounted for and put the pharmacy at fault. Around December of 2019, Matthew dispensed a dose of Versed from the pyxis and did not document the administration for the patient. Around January of 2020, the RN was caught by a specimen test which resulted in a positive drug test for Fentanyl and Amphetamines.

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 Matthew had followed protocol and gotten another nurse to waste the narcotics for him, this could have prevented any possible damage to the patient and would not have put the pharmacy at fault. The RN did not document the Versed that he took out of the pyxis, which could have resulted in the patient being at severe risk for an overdose as another nurse did not know the patient had or could have received this medication. As we have learned, if you do not document, it was never given. Lastly, the RN was engaging in substance abuse which could have caused the RN to miss any severe signs or symptoms that his patient was showing, which could potentially result in damage and/or death of a patient. This could have been prevented if Matthew had acknowledged he had a substance abuse problem, and was adhering to the correct protocols and duties of being a registered nurse.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Matthew violated Safety and Security (Physical) by not documenting the medication that he pulled for the patient. The RN pulled a narcotic without wasting it and did not document that it had or had not been given. This could have led to another nurse on the upcoming shift not being aware that this medication was given or not and could potentially have caused the patient to have overdosed. Matthew also violated Safety and Security (Emotional) by not promoting trust with his patients or coworkers. He was pulling medications without verifying, documenting, or taking correct precautions while taking these substances for himself.

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 taking care of this patient after Matthew, I would ask the RN if he had documented giving any of these meds, and if so why he did not document them. I would then alert the Charge Nurse of the behaviors I am witnessing with my coworker and would explain my concerns for the patients' safety, as well as his.