

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Ty Skiles

Date: 9/8/2023

DAS Assignment # 3

Name of the defendant: Emily Pritchett

License number of the defendant: 521887

Date action was taken against the license: 2/11/14

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 5 charges that led to the revocation of professional nursing license 521887. All 5 charges are related to the care of patient E.B. The first charge against Emily Pritchett was the result of improper delegation. From January 26th to November 23rd of 2012, Emily Pritchett delegated the task of insulin administration to another staff member that was not licensed to administer medication. The second charge brought upon professional nursing license 521887 was a result of Emily Pritchett's failure to reassess or monitor her patient's blood sugar following the improperly delegated insulin administration that led to charge 1. Charge 3 resulted from Emily Pritchett's failure to properly delegate and implement effective interventions for patient E.B.'s chronic hypertension and diabetes. An example of this includes delegating other staff members to provide E.B. with soda rather than water to quench thirst despite E.B. already presenting a trend of high blood sugar. The 4th charge against professional nursing license 521887 was the result of patient neglect. When patient E.B. presented to Emily Pritchett that they had purposely cut open wounds into the bottom of their feet, she made no attempt to follow up with emotional support or counseling. Patient E.B. would be later hospitalized within a year of initially being discharged due to an infection acquired through their right foot. The 5th and final charge brought against Emily Pritchett resulted from negligence to adhere to a healthcare provider's order. Despite receiving an order to consult an endocrinologist and nephrologist from E.B.'s primary care provider, Emily Pritchett did not make an attempt to contact either.

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.

It feels to me that the charges against Emily Pritchett could have all been easily avoidable if Pritchett herself had taken more initiative. To prevent the 1st charge brought against her, all Emily Pritchett had to do was administer the insulin herself. This is a standard practice of a registered nurse and should not be delegated to anyone who hasn't undergone the proper training to adequately do so. To prevent the 2nd charge presented against professional nursing license 521887, Emily Pritchett should have made the routine

reassessment of her patient that is expected of a registered nurse following medication administration. To prevent the 3rd charge, Emily Pritchett should have been more intuitive and provided her patient with foods that are heart healthy yet low in sugar and carbohydrates. To avoid the 4th charge brought against her, Emily Pritchett should have provided her patient with a safe emotional environment. Pritchett should have attended to her patient's wounds, offered them the chance to discuss what mental conflicts they are currently experiencing, and contacted a psychiatric consultant to follow up with the patient in mental distress. To prevent the 5th charge against her license, Emily Pritchett should have followed the provider's orders and consulted an endocrinologist and nephrologist.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

With the 1st charge brought against her, Emily Pritchett violated the universal competency of critical thinking by failing to make the decision to administer the insulin herself, rather than delegating it to a staff member unlicensed to do so. Emily Pritchett yet again violated the universal competency of critical thinking with her 2nd charge when she failed to reassess her patient following the administration of insulin. Emily Pritchett violated the universal competency of critical thinking once more when she failed to make proper dietary decisions for her patient without implementing the patient's status of hypertension and high blood sugar in her decision making. The universal competencies that were violated by the 4th charge against professional nursing license 521887 includes emotional safety and security, communication, human caring, professional role, and critical thinking. Emotional safety and security was breached when Emily Pritchett made no attempt to promote a trusting and respectable relationship between herself and her patient. Communication was violated when Emily Pritchett did not modify her language and communication styles to be more compatible with that of her patient. Human caring was grossly violated with this charge, because despite her patient being in severe emotional distress, Ms. Pritchett made no attempt to provide them with any comfort or care. I believe this failure to prioritize the wellbeing of her patient over her other duties is what qualifies critical thinking as a universal competency violated by this charge. Emily Pritchett violated the universal competency of professional role when she did not make an attempt to provide E.B. with a psychiatric consult after discovering EB was self-harming. With the 5th charge brought against her, Emily Pritchett violated the universal competencies of professional role and communication. Ms. Pritchett violated professional role by not maintaining effective communication with her coworker, and then violated communication by not utilizing the resources provided to her by her employer for effective communication with an endocrinologist and nephrologist.

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.

If I were the nurse that witnessed the kind of care being provided to E.B. by nurse Pritchett, I would immediately inform my charge nurse and report her to the hospital administration staff. I believe that the kind of care presented to E.B. from nurse Pritchett was not only disrespectful, but negligent as well. If I were to discover that a nurse was delegating the administration of insulin to a coworker who was unlicensed to do so, I would report both to my charge nurse and attempt to prevent the unlicensed staff member from administering anymore medications to the patient. I believe that this is the safest way to prevent harm to the patient. Upon discovering that a nurse hadn't reassessed their patient following an intervention such as medical administration, the first thing I would do is reassess the stability of the patient myself. Upon discovering that a nurse disregarded a self-harming patient, I would report the incident to my charge nurse and provide the patient with a safe emotional environment designed to produce open-ended conversation. Following the discovery that a nurse did not follow the healthcare provider's orders to consult a nephrologist and

endocrinologist, I would take it upon myself to contact both, and I would then inform the healthcare provider of the situation.