

Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Paulina Calzada      Date: 09/08/2023      DAS Assignment # 3

Name of the defendant: Amberlie Skye Lopez      License number of the defendant: 960486

Date action was taken against the license: 06/08/2021

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.*

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the nurse in this situation tested positive in a urine sample for buprenorphine, morphine and marijuana while on the job. At another job, on August 28<sup>th</sup> 2020, she was deemed unfit to practice because she was caught sleeping on duty. This same day she tested positive in urine sample for lorazepam, marijuana, codeine, hydromorphone and morphine while working.

*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 think in this situation the easiest way to have prevented this from happening is simply not to have taken these drugs, especially while on duty. The reason she was sleeping was more than likely from her use of opioids which cause drowsiness. What leads a lot of people to take drugs is some sort of hardship they may be facing in their personal lives. It would have been best to seek help from a therapist to deal with her problems.

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

I honestly believe this nurse just about violated every single one of the universal competencies. Being on these hard of drugs while on the job can severely impair your rational thinking which puts everyone at risk. The main universal competencies violated were safety and security, critical thinking and professional role.

Safety and security – Nurses are the highest trusted profession in the United States and no one wants a nurse under the influence while practicing her job. A patient needs to feel confident that their nurses are making the best decisions for them.

Critical thinking – Opioids and marijuana are drugs that slow down your thinking causing the user to not be able to make rational decisions in a timely manner. The nurse places the patient in danger if she is not thinking appropriately.

Professional Role – The nurse extremely lacks professionalism by sleeping on the job knowing she has patients that need immediate care. Taking drugs before going into work does not prepare you for a successful shift.

*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 saw the nurse taking a nap, I would immediately wake her up and remind her she has patients she has to take care of. I don't think I would have been suspicious of anything at first because it could be a health related problem or lack of sleep the night before as to why she was taking a nap on duty. If I noticed she had been sleeping for an extended period of time, I would notify the manager or charge nurse to know something is up with her. The document doesn't say she stole any drugs from the hospital, but I would watch out for that or count the amount of narcotics in the pyxis. People using narcotics will act differently so my best bet would be to notice any changes in the nurse's behavior and report any wrongdoings of hers.