

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Lauren Dane Date: 09/15/23 DAS Assignment # ____4____ (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Dianna Gonzales License number of the defendant: 819999

Date action was taken against the license: 7/19/2018

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.

In February of 2017, Dianna Gonzales was working as an RN in the PCCU in Harlingen, TX. While taking care of a pt, Gonzales failed to titrate the Dopamine drip that she administered and did not document this administration on the eMAR.

The next incident happened the very next night. The lab called to inform the RN of a critical blood glucose level on her patient, which was 20mg/dL. She proceeded to give this pt graham crackers and juice instead of administering a dextrose bolus. She didn't notify the physician of this critical value glucose, and she did not recheck the pt's blood sugar after giving the juice and graham crackers. She stated the patient was asymptomatic and was not a diabetic. She helped her to the bathroom and gave her the juice and crackers at that time.

That same night, while taking care of a different pt, she failed to reassess their temperature after administering Tylenol. The pt had a fever of 101.7. For this same pt, she failed to administer Tylenol for a fever of 101 and 101.7 later in the shift. Gonzales said she administered Tylenol for the initial fever of 101.7, and she also iced the pt. She also stated she "could have documented better".

As part of the board's stipulations, Gonzales was required to take a course in medication administration, physical assessments, documentation, jurisprudence and ethics, and critical thinking course.

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.

Had the nurse known the protocol for a critically low glucose, she might have known the appropriate action to take. Reassessing patients, like rechecking their temperature or blood glucose level, is a vital part of patient care. If she would've taken the time to do these things, this would've prevented harm to her patients.

Evidently, documentation is a weakness for this nurse, so I think clear, precise, and descriptive documentation would've helped prevent action being taken against this nurse.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

One major universal competency this nurse violated was critical thinking. She did this by not treating the 20mg/dL blood glucose or fevers appropriately, and she did not notify the physician either. She also did not reassess her patients after providing interventions. Another universal competency this nurse violated is patient safety. She did this by not titrating her Dopamine drip, violating the 7 rights of medication administration (right dose). She also violated pt safety by allowing a pt to get up out of bed when they had a blood glucose of 20mg/dL, putting them at risk for falling and injury. Gonzales also violated the Documentation universal competency by not documenting meds given or her nursing interventions. Lastly this nurse violated communication and professional role. She did this by not communicating with staff (i.e., HCP, CN) when her patient had a critical value.

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 notify the CN of the critical value of the patient with the low blood glucose. I would also encourage the nurse to call the pt's HCP and notify them as well. I would encourage the nurse to treat their patient appropriately (i.e., give Tylenol for fever and Dextrose bolus for a low BG), and DOCUMENT their interventions. One major part of a nurse's role is DOCUMENTING EVERYTHING that they do. If you don't document it, it did not happen! All courses required by the TBON were completely appropriate and I hope they were able to help this nurse.