Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Voltaire A. De Vera Date: 11/09/2023 DAS Assignment # ____4____ (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Sally Esther Harshaw License number of the defendant: 936564

Date action was taken against the license: 03/21/2019

Type of action taken against the license: Remedial Education with Fine

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.

Sometime on August 26, 2018. The alleged respondent, employed as a nurse in Dell Children's Hospital located in Austin, Texas was found to be in violation of privacy and confidentiality of a patient. According to the fact finding, the alleged respondent shared the medical information of the said patient to a member of the public without permission.This is surely in violation of HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). Medical information or documents are privileged meaning that it is protected by federal, state, and local laws. Medical information can only be accessed by health caregivers who are in direct care of the said patient. However, the alleged respondent denies the allegation. On the deposition of her statement regarding the case, the respondent said and I quote " information can only be accessed by associates with password" and furthermore she said " at no point during that night that the patient was in the waiting room that or anytime afterwards did she share any private patient information to any person about the patient.

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.

Privacy and confidentiality of patients' health information is a serious business. It is protected by laws. Preventive measures that any hospitals or health care facilities can enforce are too numerous to enumerate but to sum it all are the following. Education, supervision and enforcement. Employees of healthcare facilities must know that this are privileged information and only caregivers who is in direct care can have accessed to the said document. Likewise, ancilliaries that works as a team member can only access and use the minimum information for them to carry out their work. Members of such facility should be reminded that sharing such information is punishable by law and termination from employment. To summarize, employees or caregivers that don't need it must refrain from accessing the chart.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Safety/security, critical thinking, human caring and professionalism are being breached at this point. Patients' safety and security are our outmost concern. They entrust us with their information as well as their health. Therefore, we are accountable to keep up with the trust that patients gave us. Thinking critically about the totality of the patients' well-being not only regarding their disease but also the information that they entrust us to keep. Professionalism entails us to keep the standards of practice across the board, and most importantly, the secret of patient care is caring for the patient!

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, we must uphold the highest standard of keeping the medical information to ourselves and never gossip or post it on social medias.