

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: LaTonya Esquibel Date: 11/10/2023

DAS Assignment # 3 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Ellen L Kings

License number of the defendant: 517262

Date action was taken against the license: 2/13/2018

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

On March 16, 2016, a telemetry tech called and reported st elevation on RN Ellen's patient. Ellen did not report the st elevation to the charge nurse, physician or rapid response team. The patient was in fact having an MI. St elevation is a sign of a heart attack and needs to be addressed immediately but Ellen did not report it, putting the patient at risk for complication or possible death. On a later date that year, Ellen submitted a drug screen, and the screen was positive for amphetamine and methamphetamine. After the drug screen, she admitted to her coworkers that she had used before the shift started.

Ellen stated that she was not familiar with ekgs and understanding what ST elevation was. I don't think her excuse was fair enough. Although she was not familiar with the information given about the patient having ST elevation, since the tele tech called to give the report to the RN, the RN should have asked a coworker or the charge nurse to clarify the report. As a telemetry tech myself, we call on rhythms that are abnormal or harmful for the patient. I would assume that the RN does not take it lightly and if they did not understand, they should ask what it means. As for drug use, that is a given not to use anything that would impair the ability to take care of patients while on duty.

The universal competences that were violated were critical thinking protocol by not making the appropriate decision to ask someone about something she did not understand. She violated safety protocol by not making sure the patient received the attention they needed at the time. And she violated communication protocol by not utilizing resources to find out information she was not familiar with.

The actions I would have taken if I were the first person to discover the event by the RN, would have been to let her know this was a serious situation and a higher level of care was needed. The

rapid response team needed to be notified as well as the physician. I would have let her know that the charge nurse is there for moments like this, when unsure about a situation they can talk to the charge and get help with the situation. The worst thing an RN can do is ignore something they do not understand. There are way too many resources for nurses when they are not familiar with things to help them.