

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Lindsey McCormack  
Assignment # 4 (1-4)

Date: 11/15/23

DAS

Name of the defendant: Albert Jay Ellis

License number of the defendant: 755757

Date action was taken against the license: November 20, 2014

Type of action taken against the license: Suspended/Probation

*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.*

While working as an RN at Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas, the RN failed to assess his patient with extremely low blood pressure and little to no urine output. Seeing that his patient had substantially low blood pressure, with decreased urine output he failed to notify the HCP of the significant change in the patient's condition. The RN stated when he started his shift, the nurse aide said the patient's vital signs were steady, and he went ahead and increased the oxygen flow rate while continuing to check on the patient periodically. The RN was told by the family members that the patient was always drowsy, and glad the patient was finally sleeping. The RN then notified the charge nurse that the patient's vitals were steady, but the patient was not waking up, and he felt he had nothing specific to report. At 0700 he emptied the patient's foley bag and realized there had only been 200mL of urine output, so he then reported to the day shift nurse of the situation and let the day shift nurse notify the physician. Consequently, the patient was transferred to a higher level of care for an anoxic brain injury which resulted in the patient's death.

*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.*

The RN should have immediately contacted the HCP when he noticed the patient had low blood pressure and little to no urine output. The severity of this case could have caused the patient to become sepsis and result in septic shock. The RN should have gone in to check the vital signs of his patient for himself, instead of just going along with what the nurse aide told him. The nurse aides are there to assist the nurses, but they are not trained to catch underlying signs and symptoms that a patient could be having. The RN should have caught the change in the patient's condition and realized if the patient was having low BP, with low urine output, and was not waking up that something deeper was happening. If the RN had followed up with the charge nurse, notified the physician, and taken necessary actions, it could have prevented the patient from resulting in an anoxic brain injury that led to death.

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

Critical Thinking: The RN did not make accurate decision-making by ignoring the low blood pressure, low urine output, and the change in LOC of the patient. The RN did not perform an assessment based on the patient's condition and did not intervene when it was most critical.

Communication: The RN did not communicate with the physician about the severity of the patient and expressed his concerns. He decided to put it off and hand it over to the day shift nurse to handle the situation.

Human Caring: The RN did not provide human caring, by not assessing the patient's change in condition and providing immediate intervention. By the time the RN decided to intervene, it was too late and unfortunately, the patient expired.

*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, who was just given the report from the nurse about this patient, I would have immediately performed an assessment. I would have seen that the patient was not responding, had substantial low blood pressure, and did not have enough urine output. I would have looked at the MEWS score for s/s of septic shock and contacted the HCP. I would notify my charge nurse of this situation, and then alert leadership of what was happening. I would express my concerns that the prior RN did not perform an assessment on this patient, and did not think it was necessary to contact anyone about the patient's condition.