

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: **Morgan Brooks** Date: 03/21/24

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Candace Danyce Newton

License number of the defendant: 648677

Date action was taken against the license: 11/08/2022

Type of action taken against the license: Probated Suspension

- *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.*
- - o Candace Newton worked of the COVID floor at BSA Hospital in Amarillo, TX on a contract assignment with Greenstaff Medical Staffing Plano, TX. Newton failed to notify the provider when a patient was experiencing acute hypotension; the patient had a blood pressure of 48/33 mmHg. Newton then administered 192 mcg of Levophed IV bolus without an order.
 - o After administering Levophed without an order, Newton also failed to document the bolus administration. This created an inaccurate medical record.
 - o Newton also did not administer Levophed the correct way, it is supposed to be infused continuously. There was also a chance for adverse reactions/ complications when administering Levophed IV bolus; which can include vasoconstriction and hypertensive crisis.
- *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.*
 - o Measures that could have been prevented to avoid actions on her licensure would be calling a physician before administering the drug. A nurse can give a drug without an "order" if it is over the phone. It must be documented word for word what was said and then include TORB (telephone order read back) at the end for legal reasons.
 - o Newton could have also found a nurse practitioner to create the medication order.
 - o While not technically the best decision, Newton could have started Levophed as a continuous infusion (making a nursing judgement) then contacted a physician or nurse practitioner concerning the administration and situation so they could then write an order.
 - o To prevent harm to the patient, Newton should have originally administered the medication the proper way to ensure no adverse reactions would occur and cause more harm to the patient,

- *Identify ALL universal competencies were violated and explain how*
 - o **Safety and Security (physical)** – the safety of the patient was compromised the moment the nurse decided to administer a medication improperly. If administered too fast, Levophed could have cause other issues such as a hypertensive crisis and vasoconstriction.
 - o **Communication** – Newton failed to adhere to agency protocols when it came to communication. It was not that there was poor communication, the communication was completely absent. This created many problems because it was inappropriate and put the patient in harm's way.
 - o **Critical Thinking-** While Newton was doing what she thought was best for her patient, she was not critically thinking when she administered the medication IV bolus. Administering a medication with no order did not show critical thinking either because if adverse reactions occurred and the administration was unknown to anyone else they would not know and could potentially make a bad problem even worse.
 - o **Documentation** – Newton did not document administration of any kind. No drug giver, dose, route, frequency, reason, etc. She failed to adhere to hospital standards at put the patient In harm's way.
 - o **Professional Role** – Newton was not competent in her role as a professional nurse. She judged the situation, and instead of taking the correct order to give a medication, she took matters into her own hands because she claimed the floor was too hectic and busy.

- *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.*
 - o If I were the nurse to discover the criminal activity of this nurse I would report them to the charge nurse, nurse manager, and their current physicians. If told to do so (in this instance the chance is very high) I would go assess the patient's blood pressure to see if it within range or if an adverse reaction had occurred and the blood pressure is hypertensive. I would then monitor the patient frequently for signs/ symptoms of adverse reactions from the drug.