

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Victoria Padilla

Date: 3/28/2024

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Catherine Frances Walker, RN

License number of the defendant:

929314

Date action was taken against the license: 11/09/2021

Type of action taken against the license: Warning and Stipulations and 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.*

Catherine Walker had multiple unprofessional actions taken against herself while she was in her clinical setting of work. These actions involved were Catherine signing out 4 Hydrocodone Acetaminophen 7.5 mg-325mg for one patient and signed out 4 Hydrocodone Acetaminophen 5mg-325mg for a second patient, she failed to follow protocol for narcotic medications and did not waste any of the medicine nor had another nurse witness wastage, she failed to document the administrations of medications in the patients MAR and to document for not just for herself, but for the other nurses when being handed off those patients they would not have no way of knowing the medication was given to those two patients and because medication was not documented those new round of nurses would have given them another dose of the medication and that could have potentially resulted in an overdose.

Because of Catherine Walkers multiple actions this could have resulted in many unnecessary risk factors for the patients.

- *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.*

Just like multiple unprofessional actions were taken, multiple actions could have been taken to prevent major risks against the patients. As soon as she saw she had a narcotic medication to be given she should have grabbed another RN to follow her for supervision and for the appropriate documentation of wastage.

What was not documented was not done. In her case, the importance of documentation for legal rights especially for a narcotic medication could have cost her more damage if an overdose would have occurred in those patients. Also, the importance of documenting a medication is not just for herself but for her fellow nurses that will take over her report and can see when and what was given to prevent harm and or death.

- *Identify ALL universal competencies were violated and explain how.*

Safety and Security- was violated when the RN did not protect her patients and did not provide trust to them as they depended on her to be their advocate for safety, and she failed them.

Communication- was violated when the RN failed to communicate with her fellow RN's in having them witness her waste a narcotic.

Documentation- was violated when the RN failed to document giving a narcotic medication resulting in a possible expiration of a patient because of her negligence.

Professional Role- was violated by ignoring the simple aspects of an RN and ignoring the hospital policy in regard to what an RN scope of practice should and needs to be.

- *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.*

I would first report to the Charge Nurse or the Nurse Manager. I would make sure to get ahold of those patient's physicians to let them know of what is going on with their patients so they can go take a look at them to make sure no damage has occurred. I would report to the Texas State of Nursing Board so that this nurse could get looked into and to help her evaluate why and what made her make these life-threatening mistakes.