

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Jessica Cervera Date: 3/23/2024 DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Carolyn Byrd License number of the defendant: 790831

Date action was taken against the license: 4/25/2019

Type of action taken against the license: Suspend/Probate

- *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.*

First, Carolyn Byrd withdrew multiple syringes of Hydromorphone from the medication dispensing system. Byrd also failed to follow protocol and document or have a witness for wasting the narcotics she was administering. While still being employed Byrd took more syringes of Hydromorphone and failed to document or completely document the administrations of the medications.

Second, Byrd also stole 18.7 milligrams of Hydromorphone from the hospital. She also left Hydromorphone in the employee bathroom and finally admitted she needed help. She admitted to taking Hydromorphone home and was also using this narcotic while working.

Finally, I believe that what Byrd did was very unethical. She put her patients at great risk. With Byrd failing to document the upcoming nurse on shift could've given more Hydromorphone to the patient and made the patient overdose. As well as the upcoming nurse may have thought the patient had taken the narcotic and withheld the medication. With Byrd using this substance while working could've also put her patients at risk. She could've made wrong decisions while being under the influence. While taking Hydromorphone she could've missed symptoms of patients, or she could've over medicated the patient's Byrd also put herself and her coworkers in danger.

- *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.*

First, the measures that could've prevented the RN from making these errors are plenty. She should've had another RN witness the wastage of the narcotics. The Pyxis or other RNs should've also made it known that medication was wasn't being wasted appropriately or there was missing narcotics. Second, Byrd should've also documented all medication being administered. This would keep her patient's

health safe from being administered the same medication within different time frames. Finally, Byrd should've looked for help before using and stealing her patients Hydromorphone.

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

Safety and Security- Byrd did not provide trust and respect to her patients as she was stealing her patients Hydromorphone.

Critical Thinking- Byrd was using Hydromorphone will working and did not prioritize the patient's needs.

Documentation- Byrd was not documenting the administration of Hydromorphone as well as having a witness to document the wastage of the narcotic.

Professional Role- Byrd was not managing supplies accordingly. She was using medication for herself, as well as stealing this narcotic.

- *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 believe I would be very disappointed in my fellow coworker. I would immediately go to the charged nurse so that Byrd wasn't working while being on Hydromorphone. I would then go and assess her patients to make sure they were not harmed or in the process of being harmed. I would also turn her into the state board and see if we could refer her to the Texas Peer Assistance program for Nurses.