

Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Julie Boren    Date: 03/29/2024

DAS Assignment # \_\_\_1\_\_\_

Name of the defendant:        Katherine Irene Eggers Boyter  
554305

License number of the defendant:

Date action was taken against the license: August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Type of action taken against the license: Enforced Suspension

**The following events led to the suspension of Eggers' Nursing License:**

- Katherine Irene Eggers was placed on Enforced Suspension due to multiple instances of drug diversion, administering narcotics without provider orders, and alcohol use, and failure to abstain from controlled substances, alcohol, and opiates following the reinstatement of her license.

In April of 1995, while employed at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock, Texas, Eggers failed to properly document use of medications in medical records. This exposed her patients to a lack of medical care and possible harm as a result of incomplete medical records.

During the same time period, it was also found that Eggers had administered medications (including narcotics) without provider orders. Eggers' actions exposed patients to adverse side effects of narcotics including hypotension, vomiting, respiratory depression, and sedation. Patients were also at risk of possible overdose as a result of improper medication administration.

Also during this time period, Eggers was observed withdrawing morphine from a patient's IV drip on two separate occasions. This constitutes misappropriation and causes the patient to not receive their entire dose of the analgesic.

In May of 1996 while working at Highland Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas, Eggers reported to work with the odor of alcohol on her person. She was then required to submit a blood sample for testing and was found to be under the influence of alcohol. Her patients were exposed to unnecessary danger as a result of her alcohol use.

In August of 1996, Eggers voluntarily surrendered her right to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Texas.

Katherine Irene Eggers had her license reinstated on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003, after completing all probationary requirements set by the state board of nursing.

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, while employed at UMC Health System in Lubbock, Texas, Eggers was found to have withdrawn Valium and Hydrocodone in amounts exceeding the provider's orders. These drugs were not wasted, and not documented in the medical administration record. These actions are consistent with deceiving the pharmacy, not administering prescribed medication to the patient, diverting narcotics, and defrauding the hospital and the patients of the cost of these medications.

On September 10<sup>th</sup> of 2013, Eggers' license was issued Reprimand with Stipulations through the board of nursing. Eggers did not comply with the terms of the order.

On May 27<sup>th</sup> of 2015, Eggers failed to abstain from the use of alcohol and her license was suspended and enforced until Eggers completed an appropriate treatment program, maintained sobriety, and paid all required fines to reinstate her license.

### **How could the RN have prevented actions being taken against the license?**

- The nurse in question had her license suspended multiple times as a result of improper patient care, diversion of narcotics, alcohol abuse, and failure to comply with the conditions set forth by the state board of nursing. Eggers did not take the necessary steps to protect her license despite having her license reinstated and having multiple opportunities to comply with sobriety and patient safety.

### **The following universal competencies were violated by Eggers:**

- Documentation: Eggers failed to properly document medication administration and intentionally did not document medication amounts in an attempt to divert narcotics.
- Safety and Security (Emotional): Eggers broke her patients trust when they did not receive the prescribed amounts of analgesic medication.
- Safety and Security (Physical): Eggers endangered the health of her patients when administering narcotics without provider orders.
- & Rights of Medication Administration: Eggers violated right patient, right dose, right orders, and right documentation.
- Human Caring: Eggers intentionally deprived patients of pain medication.
- Professional role: Eggers committed fraud, diverted narcotics and defrauded the pharmacy, attended work under the influence of alcohol and was visibly intoxicated, and damaged the reputation of herself and all healthcare workers in the respective hospitals in which she worked.

### **What actions would a prudent nurse take upon discovery of misconduct?**

- As the first nurse to discover the diversion of narcotics and the presence of my coworker working under the suspected influence of any substance, the nurse has a responsibility to patient safety and the protection of their employer and coworkers. The behaviors should immediately be reported to the nursing manager and the State Board of Nursing.