

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Julie Boren

Date: 04/05/2024

DAS Assignment # 2

Name of the defendant: Shawna Jae Hartle

License number of the defendant: 828960

Date action was taken against the license: July 7th, 2015

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

The following events led to Hartle's license revocation:

- Shawna Jae Hartle had her license revoked as the result of multiple infractions including failing to properly document administered narcotics, failure to document waste of narcotics, failure to ensure accurate documentation, diversion of narcotics, use of controlled substances while on duty, driving while intoxicated, and working while under the influence of alcohol.

February 8, 2014:

Charge I:

February 8, 2014, while employed at St David's Medical Center in Austin, Texas, Hartle withdrew Morphine from the Pyxis machine and did not document administration of the medication. This patient did not receive their prescribed analgesic and was also exposed to possible overdose. Hartle's actions placed St. David's Medical Center in violation of the Controlled Substance Act (Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code).

Charge II:

Hartle was found to be in violation of the Controlled Substance Act at this same time due to her failure to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of the unused amount of Morphine.

Charge III:

During this time period Hartle was also charged with misappropriating Morphine from the facility and her patients. Hartle was found to have a partially used vial of Morphine in her scrub pocket. This constitutes fraud due to the unpaid cost of the medication.

Charge IV:

Also, during this time period Hartle was subjected to a drug screening and found to be using Hydromorphone, Marijuana, and Morphine. The use of these substances while on call or subject to duty places her patients at significant risk of harm.

June 25, 2014:

Charge V:

On June 25th, 2014, Hartle was convicted of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) in April 25th of 2013. Hartle was subsequently sentenced to confinement in the Travis County Jail for a period of twenty days.

July 24, 2014:

Charge VI:

Less than one month following her DWI conviction, Hartle was found to be under the influence of alcohol while working with the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) in Austin, Texas and produced a specimen that tested positive for the presence of alcohol metabolites. The use of alcohol by a registered nurse while either working or on call subjects patients to potential danger.

September 19, 2014:

Charge VII:

While involved with the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses, Hartle was found to be using Amphetamines after producing a positive specimen during a random drug screening. Hartle also reported using Adderrall without a prescription. The use of amphetamines by Hartle while on duty impaired her ability to make decisions regarding patient care and placed her patients in danger.

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

Hartle did not abide by any of the stipulations placed on her license and was found to be using controlled substances and abusing alcohol while involved in TPAPN. Hartle did not seek treatment for her addiction issues and has made no further efforts to have her license reinstated. Luckily, there is no documented record of harm to any of Hartle's patients as a result of her misconduct. Hartle was given ample opportunity to comply with requirements of the laws for retention of the license prior to the revocation of her nursing license.

The following universal competencies were violated by Hartle:

- Documentation: Hartle did not accurately document medications given, dosage, and did not follow the 7 Rights of medication administration. This exposed her patients to injury by overdose.
- Human Caring: Hartle exposed her patients to unnecessary pain by diverting their narcotics and not administering them as ordered.
- Safety and Security (Emotional): Hartle broke her patients' trust by not administering their narcotics.
- Professional Role: Hartle was dishonest, reckless, and a danger to her coworkers and patients due to her inability to remain sober.
- Critical Thinking: Hartle was not able to think critically due to her addiction issues.
- Safety and Security (Physical): Hartle did not follow the 7 Rights of Medication Administration.

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

The first nurse to discover a potential diversion of narcotics or possible substance use by a fellow healthcare provider has the responsibility to immediately involve management and report the issue to the Board of Nursing.