

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Peter Nguyen

Date: August 27, 2024

DAS Assignment #

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Name of the defendant: Susan Dawn Ferguson, RN  
789084

License number of the defendant:

Date action was taken against the license: June 9, 2020

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

- *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.*

The clinical events that took place leading to disciplinary actions against Susan included: Failing to notify the physician when her patient had a drastic change in condition of agitation, confusion, disorientation, and multiple falls, failing to assess vital signs when a patient was found on the floor after multiple falls, leaving a patient on the floor after a fall, and performing CPR on a patient who had signed a DNR order.

By failing to notify the physician of the patient's significant change in condition, the lack of communication did not allow the physician to prescribe any medications or put in place any important interventions to get the patient back in stable condition. This is dangerous because life-threatening injuries could be worsening, and the nurse is neglecting her duty to inform the physician of any changes of LOC and potential injuries from multiple falls.

Leaving a patient on the floor and not assessing them after a fall demonstrates lack of effort in the nurse's role of caring for a patient. Failing to take vital signs and giving oxygen therapy while leaving the patient on the floor to be found unresponsive and in respiratory distress illustrates how becoming complacent and stoic towards the sufferings of a patient can cause their injuries to get worse and be potentially fatal.

Performing CPR on a patient who had signed a Do Not Resuscitate Order indicates the nurse's lack of understanding the desires of the patient. This action took away from the patient's independence of what care they were to receive.

- *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.*

Measures that I believe could have prevented any action being taken against the license and prevented harm to the patient include: Notifying the physician immediately about potential life-threatening changes in a patient's

condition, assessing vital signs of a patient after a fall and not leaving them on the floor, and reading the charting of patient history and desires before perform CPR on a DNR patient.

Notifying the physician helps the physician make quick-informed decisions for medical intervention for the patient, assessing the patient properly allows for a proper diagnoses and plan of care to be made, helping a patient off the floor would not take away from their dignity of being a human being, and reading more carefully about the patient's description would have prevented the nurse from performing CPR for 2 minutes on a DNR patient.

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

**Safety and Security** was violated when the RN left the patient on the floor after they fell until they were to be found later under respiratory distress and unresponsive. This incident compromised both the patient's physical and emotional health.

**Critical Thinking** was violated when the RN failed to assess vital signs and intervene for the patient after they fell.

**Human Caring** was violated when the patient was not treated with respect or dignity being left on the floor.

**Professional Role** was violated when the RN gave CPR to a patient with a DNR order and failed to communicate with the physician about significant changes in patient condition as well as multiple fall occurrences. This took away from the patient's choice in deciding what interventions they desired if they were to become unstable and the nurse failed to advocate and act for what the patient wanted and demonstrated poor intervention and interaction with staff.

- *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.*

If I was the first person to discover these events, I would prioritize patient safety by making sure they are able to breathe and ensuring there is circulation which may involve focused assessments of their LOC and respiratory system. If possible, before talking to the nurse who is responsible for this patient, I would call them into the room and try to be an example of how a nurse should care for their patient instead of neglecting them. After making sure that the patient is in stable condition, I would talk to the nurse responsible for them and see what went wrong and why the patient was being neglected. I would also discuss with them the importance of notifying the physician in cases where a patient's condition worsens rapidly and remind them the importance of being the advocate for the patient and listening to their desires of what they want regarding end-of-life care and CPR. Finally, I would inform the charge nurse and physician about what happened and let them address the problems prudently.