

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Kaitlyn Massey

Date: 10/23/2024

DAS Assignment # __1__

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION- 05/11/2023

Name of the defendant: Terri Watts

License number of the defendant: 544991

Date action was taken against the license: 08/08/2023

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.*

Terri Watts displayed unprofessionalism and put patients in harm's way on multiple occasions while working in a hospital/clinical setting. She was charged with three counts of failure to document complete pain assessments when administering pain medication and narcotics.

Nurse Watts failed to document and complete a full pain assessment prior to administering 0.5mg of Dilaudid and 5/325 of Norco. She gave two separate Dilaudid doses within eighteen minutes of one another. According to the UpToDate database, Dilaudid should typically be used PRN every three to four hours depending on the doctor's order. She then proceeded to give the Norco about fifteen minutes later. Dilaudid and Norco should not be administered together given they are both strong pain medications which can cause a drug interaction. The failure to properly assess the patient's pain and complete documentation as well as her poor nursing judgement allowed for possible injury to occur to the patient.

Nurse Watts, for the second time, failed to document and complete a full pain assessment prior to administering 50mcg of Fentanyl. She gave the highest dosage of this medication without having knowledge of the patient's pain level. This demonstrates the nurse's poor judgement and lack of care which could have led to patient harm given that the patient might not have needed this medication.

Lastly, nurse Watts failed to document and complete a full pain assessment prior to administering 0.5mg of Dilaudid.

In conclusion, nurse Terri Watts put three different patients in harm's way when administering pain medications/narcotics. She failed to properly document assessments and failed to properly complete the pain assessment. This assessment should have been completed to verify the patients pain level prior to medication administration to avoid the misuse or overuse of the medications.

- *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.*

Nurse Terri Watts could have accurately charted the pain assessments. In my opinion, her failure to do so could be considered as falsifying medical records/documentation. She also could have performed the full pain assessments on each patient. This focused assessment would have only taken a matter of five minutes to complete. In my opinion, she chose to cut corners to possibly speed up the medication administration process and minimize her workload.

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

The universal competencies that nurse Watts violated were safety/security, critical thinking, documentation, human caring, and professional role.

Safety and Security was violated when the nurse failed to acknowledge all seven rights for medication administration by failing to obtain the reason and documenting correctly. This competency was further violated by the RN when she failed to assess the patients pain.

Critical thinking was violated when the nurse failed to perform the necessary assessment related to patient's pain. Furthermore, the nurse used poor judgement to administer pain medication at her convenience instead of by patients needs.

Documentation was violated when the nurse failed to document the full pain assessment prior to administering the medication.

Human caring was violated when the nurse failed to involve the patient in the medication administration process and failed to assess their needs/pain. This violation goes against the involvement of patients in their plan of care.

Professional role was violated when nurse Watts failed to follow the universal competencies and abide by the laws/requirements of her license

- *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.*

A prudent nurse would immediately report the incident to the charge nurse. The nurse should then check the patient's wellbeing to determine if the event caused great harm to the patient. The RN would also notify the patient's primary physician and others who are part of the care team to verify no harm has occurred or correct any harm that was done. The nurse should discuss the incident that occurred with the nurse responsible. This discussion should be conducted in a respectful manner and be utilized as a teaching moment. The RN would discuss the wrongful doing and describe what should have been done instead. While doing this, the nurse would try to gather information as to why the incident occurred in the first place. Finally, the RN would notify and report the name of the nurse responsible, the incident that occurred, and the outcome of the incident (did the patient live, die, etc.) to the Board of Nursing in their state.