

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Zakeia Brown

Date: 10/22/2024

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Elizabeth Claire Sturman, RN

License number of the defendant: 757496

Date action was taken against the license: Oct 1, 2012

Type of action taken against the license: First TPAPN, then suspension

- *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.*

Elizabeth exhibited drug-seeking behaviors while employed at Baylor University Medical Center, which had severe repercussions on her professional life. These actions included falsely documenting the administration of medicines, failing to administer medicine as ordered, neglecting to take precautions to prevent misappropriations, and writing fraudulent prescriptions to various pharmacies. Additionally, she failed to abide by the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) rules. These unprofessional behaviors led to her being sent to rehab and ultimately resulted in the suspension of her licenses. Her inability to recognize subtle signs and symptoms in patients severely affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thus placing patients in dangerous situations.

Elizabeth's drug-seeking habits had the potential to cause significant harm to patients. Being under the influence of narcotics impaired her judgment, leading to dangerous situations where she would take the medicine meant for patients and fail to document its administration. This created discrepancies in medical records, forcing doctors to reorder medications unnecessarily. Furthermore, she resorted to taking prescription order forms to write out prescriptions for herself, visiting pharmacies like CVS and Tom Thumb to obtain Hydrocodone. Her actions culminated in a mandated stint in rehab under the TPAPN program, where she tested positive for alcohol, further highlighting her struggle with substance abuse and its impact on her professional conduct.

- *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.*

Things that could've helped prevent her taking medicine and using it for personal use would be if someone witnessed her doing these actions to say something to her or even the charge nurse. Honestly being addicted to drugs is something I feel is a personal habit that you must stop yourself and if you see say something to make sure that the patient stays safe and away from harm. She could've started by doing the right thing and administering the patient correct medication. Then continued by documenting correctly and making sure that the patient is out of pain and comfortable. This would've prevented her from having an inaccurate medical record for the patient, neglecting the patient, and making sure patient care needs were met.

To prevent Elizabeth from taking medicine for personal use, it would have been crucial for colleagues to be vigilant and proactive. If someone had witnessed her actions and reported them to a charge nurse or supervisor, it could have stopped the behavior early on. This kind of oversight and accountability can help ensure that any potential misuse of medication is addressed promptly.

By ensuring that she administered the correct medication and documented it accurately, it could have helped maintain patient safety and care standards. These preventive measures would have ensured accurate medical records, proper patient care, and overall safety. By fostering a culture of accountability and support, the medical center could have helped Elizabeth address her addiction while protecting patients from harm. This approach emphasizes the importance of teamwork and vigilance in maintaining a safe healthcare environment.

Addiction is a personal battle, but it also if Elizabeth had received support and intervention from her peers, it might have helped her overcome her addiction

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

Safety and security: 7 rights were abused because the patient wasn't given a drug, a dose, a time, a route, a reason or no documentation about the drug. Using all 4p's accessing pain but not giving anything for pain. Patient was in ongoing pain but wasn't administered any medication to help with the pain because she kept the pain medication.

Critical Thinking: Decision making was not met, because she needed to give medicine and decide to divert meds instead. If she did an assessment after it would've told her if the medication were working.

Documentation: No medication was scanned or charted. Nurse failed to do so, because she wanted to use it for personal use.

Human caring: listening to the patient would tell her that they were still in pain and that he wanted medicine for the pain they were in

Profession Role: none the action here were professional. As a profession you want to be honest and trustworthy. Stealing a doctors prescription pad and making your own order under your name is very untrustworthy.

- *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 would confront the nurse and the activity that was taking place. Keeping eyes on her and the patient. Then I would promptly inform their immediate supervisor or charge nurse about the observed criminal activity. This ensures that the matter is addressed by someone in a position of authority who can take appropriate steps. If the charge nurse asked me to document I would. It's important to document the details of the incident accurately and thoroughly. My documentation would include what I observed, when it happened, and any other information. This way a record will be formed for any investigations. I know each hospital is different, but I would follow the protocols of the hospital, which may include filling out specific forms. By taking these actions, it helps ensure that the criminal activity is addressed appropriately, protecting patients and maintaining the integrity of the hospital.