

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Harlee Richardson

Date:10/20/2024

DAS Assignment # _1_____

Name of the defendant: Rita A. Yau License number of the defendant: 500080

Date action was taken against the license: Oct. 28 2019

Type of action taken against the license: Reprimand with stipulations

- *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.*
 - o *While working as a registered nurse at First Texas Hospital in Carrollton, Texas, Rita failed to appropriately intervene with her declining patient. The nurse was taking care of a patient who was hypothermic and had signs of altered mental status, severe hypotension reading 74/39 mmHg, heart rate was 41 BPM, and decreased oxygen saturation throughout the nurse's shift. Despite knowing the patient's oxygen saturation was low, the nurse did not administer supplemental oxygen to the patient. The nurse also failed to report any findings in a timely manner to anyone. She failed to appropriately and/or completely document any interventions that she may or may not have performed. On the incoming shift, the patient was transferred to a higher patient care level. In conclusion, the nurse's actions were likely to seriously injure the patient and left the medical record incomplete, which could result in further injury.*

- *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.*
 - o *There are many things Rita could have done to prevent any harm to the patient. The first thing Rita should have done was to go into the patient's room and spend some time with him/her. Rita would have seen that the patient was seriously declining and took action based on the situation. It didn't specify why the nurse did not intervene with this patient, but knowing all of this information it sounds like the nurse just did not go into the patient's room. The document stated that Rita contacted the patient's nurse practitioner after a slight delay with her assessment findings. Rita should have immediately contacted the nurse practitioner or someone above her to help care for the patient. She then should have stayed with the patient until all vitals were stable.*

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

- o Both **safety and security and standard precautions** were violated when the nurse failed to intervene in any part of the patient care. The patient was in serious septic shock and declining and the nurse did not intervene on the hypothermia, hypotension, bradycardia, and decreased oxygen saturation. Safety and security was compromised because the patient could've been hurt detrimentally, if not that, could have caused death. This situation could have also been put under standard precaution because as nurses we are called to use protocols on how to care for our patients. This nurse completely ignored any protocols on how to care for her patient in this situation. For example, she could have used the MEWS scale to score the patient's condition and from there followed protocol.
 - o **Documentation** was violated when the nurse did not document anything she did to help these patients. Even if she did do anything to intervene she did not document what she did, and she failed to document the patient's response to what she did. This proves that she did not do anything to help the patient while under her care.
 - o **Human Caring** was also violated when the nurse failed to care for her patient. If the nurse had went and just saw the condition that the patient was in or spent time time with the patient, she would have noticed that the patient was declining and needed help.
- 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.
 - o If I were the nurse who discovered the patient in this condition the first thing I would do is make sure the patient is okay. I would check all of her vitals along with necessary assessments, and when noticing that her oxygen saturation was low, I would supply her with oxygen to bring her level up. After seeing the condition that she was in I would stay with her in the room and press the call light to get the charge nurse to inform her on the patient's condition. From there we would inform all people necessary to get this patient the help that she needs and create a care plan. Getting the patient stable and the care she needs is my top priority.