

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Torrey Hogan

Date: 10/31/2024

DAS Assignment # 2

Name of the defendant: Christine Marie Solly, RN

License number of the defendant: 1005013

Date action was taken against the license: 8/8/23

Type of action taken against the license: RN License Permanently Revoked

- *Use the space below to describe the events that 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 *Charge 1: Christine Marie Solly, while working as an RN at Texas Vista Medical Center in San Antonio, TX, showed signs of impaired behavior while working with patients. She was slurring her words, speaking slower than normal, swaying, and was unable to focus her eyes. In addition to major signs of impairment, Solly tampered with the Fentanyl drip of a patient that was not assigned to her. Furthermore, when asked to take a drug test, Solly initially agreed, but immediately left the hospital without providing a sample for the required drug test.*
 - o *Charge 2: While employed as an RN at Methodist Hospital Metropolitan in San Antonio, TX, Solly participated in drug diversion by taking Fentanyl and Morphine that were scheduled to be administered to her patients.*
 - o *Charge 3: Lastly, Solly was ordered to provide a specimen for a drug test when coworkers noticed impaired behavior while working with her patients. The drug test concluded that Solly was on quantitative levels of the following drugs while tending to patients: Fentanyl, Morphine, Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone, Oxycodone, and Oxymorphone.*
 - o *All three charges filed against Christine Marie Solly resulted in the court's decision to revoke her RN license permanently.*

- *Use the space below to describe 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 *Charge 1: Fentanyl is a beneficial pain medication that can be used for patients in a variety of ways. It is best known for its strong ability to decrease high pain levels. However, side effects include drowsiness, confusion, and sedation. Not only was Solly working with a patient who was not hers, but she was also taking Fentanyl that belonged to the patient and therefore the patient was not receiving the full dose. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the dose or rate of the IV pump did not change while Solly was tampering with the drip. Medications such as Fentanyl must be given at a specific rate. If the rate or dose would have been unknowingly changed, the patient could have suffered severe harm or death. Drug diversion is a serious offense that can*

easily be avoided. Solly, who seemed to be an ongoing drug user based on her charges, should have sought addiction therapy/ treatment. Solly, in no other circumstance, unless asked by the patient's nurse, should be treating other patients with medication. In that case, Solly should have documented that medications were given by her. In doing these actions the patient would have been ensured safety, the full dose of medication, and Solly's RN license would have been protected.

- o *Charge 2: In another instance of drug diversion, Solly's patients were not receiving their full dose of Fentanyl or Morphine, both of which are medications used to treat severe pain. Solly's choice to use these drugs for herself rather than her patients is not only illegal, but directly impacts her patient's physical health. This charge could have been avoided if proper steps in narcotic medication administration were taken. Solly should have taken the drugs from the Pyxis, drawn up the amount needed, had a second nurse witness the drugs being wasted, gone through the required medication checks/ rights, and then administered them to her patients. In doing this, Solly's patients would have been relieved of pain and her license would not have been revoked.*
- o *Charge 3: Although the signs of drug abuse were not named in this charge, it is likely to be similar behavior presented in the first charge. Behaviors such as slurred words, speaking slower than normal, swaying, and inability to focus her eyes. It was also not mentioned in this charge that Solly was participating in drug diversion or initiating any patient harm. However, it is important to note that no nurse should be treating patients while under the influence of chemicals that cause impaired behaviors. Thankfully, no patients were directly harmed during this charge, but the actions of Solly, if not caught, could have resulted in a medical error, more drug diversion, patient negligence, etc. Like charge one, Solly should have sought drug addiction therapy/treatment before returning to work. If Solly had recognized this sooner, she might still be working as an RN today.*
- *Identify ALL universal competencies that were violated and explain how.*
 - o *Professional Role: Solly, while under the influence, was not acting professionally. The use of slurring words, erratic behavior, speaking abnormally slow, and having the inability to focus her eyes is unprofessional whether one is on drugs or not.*
 - o *Safety and Security (physical): Solly's patients were not receiving their full dose of pain medications and therefore are put at risk for more pain on top of the pain they are presumed to already be in. Drugs such as Fentanyl and Morphine are drugs that are prescribed to patients who are in severe pain and require relief, if not given, the patient's pain is likely to worsen. This occurred on two separate occasions.*
 - o *Safety and Security (physical): Solly chose to tamper with the Fentanyl drip of a patient that was not hers. This action could have been detrimental to the patient receiving the drip if the dose and rate were skewed.*
 - o *Documentation: Solly was charged on multiple accounts of drug diversion, however, the use of narcotics would have meant that she lied while documenting medications. She either lied while taking the medications out of the Pyxis or stated she gave a medication that was not given to the patient.*
 - o *Professional Role: Solly's use of drug diversion was not treating medications effectively or economically. She was not only costing the hospital more money by diverting drugs, but she also took what was supposed to be the patients.*
- *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 Drug diversion in no circumstances is appropriate, but especially at the expense of the patient's physical well-being. If I were the first to notice Solly's actions I would do everything in my power to ensure that the patient's safety was a priority. I would first check on the patient who had the Fentanyl IV drip for any signs of pain and/or overdose. I would then immediately report Solly to the CN or proper authority. If I were the first to see Solly acting with impaired behavior, I would first ensure that she was on drugs and not tired. A tired nurse can present similar signs of being intoxicated, so this would be a priority action for me. After further evaluation of Solly, I would then report her to the CN or proper authorities as needed. As I stated in my last DAS, some might call this snitching, but our job as nurses is to ensure the safety of our patients. Solly's impaired behavior while working with patients is not putting our patient's safety first.*