

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Christine Pinili

Date: 11/01/2024

DAS Assignment # 2

Name of the defendant: Cassi Lea Wilbur, RN

License number of the defendant: 765862

Date action was taken against the license: 4/22/2021

Type of action taken against the license: Probated 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.*

While in the waiting room of a clinic, a stage VI cancer patient was reported by a front office staff member to appear cold, pale, and possibly deceased. The nurse did not act right away to assess the patient's status despite this concerning observation. Instead, she responded that vital signs, an EKG, and a subsequent assessment by a nurse practitioner would suffice. The nurse said that her work was largely concerned with scheduling and clinic flow, limiting her capacity to actively monitor patients in the waiting room. She claimed that the staff member's comments did not convey urgency, and another nurse present also failed to respond. However, this inaction posed a significant risk to the patient's safety and highlighted serious questions about the nurse's adherence to her duty of care. As a result, actions were taken against her nursing license for neglect and failure to provide necessary care, which could fall under abandonment.

- *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.*

Several crucial precautions may have been implemented to avoid any actions against the nurse's license and to protect patient safety. First, having clear protocols for screening patients, particularly those who are vulnerable, would assist personnel in knowing what to do when they discover warning signals. Effective communication training would also enable team members to communicate pressing issues more effectively, guaranteeing that everyone knows how important it is to speak out when patient safety is at risk. It is also critical to establish all staff members' duties and responsibilities in terms of patient monitoring so that everyone understands how they may help keep patients safe. Regular team meetings could promote collaboration and allow employees to share views regarding patient care, resulting in a stronger support system. Additionally, everyone would be ready to respond swiftly in emergency situations if emergency response drills were practiced. Lastly, rearranging the clinic to improve the waiting area's visibility could aid nurses in patient monitoring. These steps could significantly lower the chances of such occurrences happening in the future, improving patient safety and assisting nurses in carrying out their duties.

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

First, it is evident that Safety and Security had been compromised when the nurse neglected to take action after being notified that the patient appeared pale, cold, and possibly deceased. Since immediate response is essential to preventing harm in emergency situations, her failure to act put the patient at serious risk. The nurse also demonstrated a lack of Critical Thinking by failing to recognize the weight of the situation and instead acting on presumptions that caused a delay in assessing the situation and not checking on the patient right away. Human Caring was also evidently insufficient, as failing to respond to a patient in distress contradicts the compassionate care that is essential to nursing practice. In addition to clinical knowledge, providing patient care requires empathy along with being aware of their needs. Lastly, by concentrating only on scheduling and clinic operations rather than accepting accountability for evaluating the patient's condition, the nurse failed to fully embrace her Professional Role. This kind of thinking greatly compromises a nurse's primary duties, which include advocating for and ensuring the well-being of 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.*

If I were the first to discover that a patient had been endangered as a result of a nurse's inaction, the first thing I would do is ensure the patient's safety. I would quickly check vital signs to evaluate the patient's condition. If the patient appeared to be unresponsive or in critical condition, I would call for emergency medical assistance right away. While waiting for assistance, I would make sure the patient is in a safe position, possibly lying down if they are weak or disoriented, to avoid further injury. In addition to monitoring vital signs, I would look for any signs of distress, such as trouble breathing or changes in skin color. I would communicate with the patient in a calm and reassuring manner to keep them as comfortable as possible while we waited for help. Depending on the patient's condition, I would be ready to administer CPR or basic first aid if needed. In order to make sure that the matter is appropriately handled and that additional interventions can be implemented, I would also inform the supervisory staff about it. Accurate documentation of my observations would be essential, including the time and any relevant details about the patient's condition. Throughout the process, I would remain focused while ensuring that my actions prioritize the patient's well-being and that I adhered to all protocols for dealing with these kinds of situations. Advocating for the patient and taking accountability for making sure their care and safety are never compromised is important.