Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Harlee Richardson   Date:10/28/2024   DAS Assignment # _2_____

Name of the defendant: Janet Kathleen Pischke   License number of the defendant: 847721

Date action was taken against the license: September 23, 2019

Type of action taken against the license: Reprimand with stipulations and Fine

- *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 On March 27, 2019, while employed as a registered nurse at Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, Janet did not provide adequate care for her patient, leading to the involvement of the Rapid Response Team and a transfer to the ICU. She neglected to administer the ordered Heparin and incorrectly documented that the patient had refused the medication, despite the patient being unresponsive to both verbal and physical stimuli. Janet also falsely recorded a physical and pain assessment, as it was impossible to conduct such an evaluation given the patient's condition. Additionally, she noted that the patient was lethargic and unresponsive but still chose to leave the room to assist another patient, failing to return and address the situation. As a result of her lack of reassessment and intervention, the Rapid Response Team was called, and the patient was moved to the ICU for more intensive care. Janet's actions put the patient at significant risk of injury or even death due to her inadequate nursing care.

- *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 several measures that could have been taken to prevent this situation from occurring. One key action would be to establish intervention protocols that outline when a nurse should seek assistance or escalate care for an unresponsive patient. This could help eliminate delays in intervention and enhance patient outcomes. The nurse should have remained with the patient after noticing the lack of response to verbal or physical stimuli. Additionally, the nurse could have reached out to colleagues for support. While it's unclear why the nurse did not intervene, seeking help from another nurse would have allowed her to stay with the patient and provide necessary care.

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

- o **Both Critical Thinking and Safety and Security** *were violated when the nurse failed to give the medication that the physician had ordered. It was also violated when she failed to intervene when the patient was not responding to stimuli. These actions put patient safety at risk and showed a lack of responsibility expected in her role.*
- o **Documentation** *was violated when the nurse falsely documented a physical assessment and a pain assessment. The patient was unresponsive therefore a complete pain and/or physical assessment could not be completed.*

- *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 Janet's actions, my first priority would be to ensure the patient's well-being. I would check the vital signs and perform a quick assessment. Upon finding the patient unresponsive, I would immediately adhere to protocol by calculating the MEWS score. Based on the results, I would promptly inform the charge nurse of the situation. As indicated in the article, I would also call the Rapid Response Team. Once they arrive, I would assist them and relay the patient's condition to the physician. Finally, I would document all observations and actions taken, assessing whether any further steps are necessary.