

Disciplinary Action Summary Presentation

Alyssa Pagano 11/11/2024

Identifying Information

Shannon Spring Balentine

**RN License Number:
704162**

Registered Nurse

12/10/2019:

Warning with Stipulations

Shannon became a nurse in April 2004 and received her associate degree in nursing (ADN) from Trinity Valley Community College in Kaufman, Texas on May 12, 2003 and received her license to practice nursing on April 3, 2004.

Since 2004 Shannon has worked in a variety of hospitals over Texas, today we will look at an incident that happened when employed at Christus Spohn Hospital Kleburg in Kingsville, Texas.

What Happened?

On March 14th, 2018 at Christus Spohn Kleburg Hospital:

Shannon Balentine had been employed with this hospital for about 10 months and worked on the Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and Post-Partum Unit when the respondent lacked fitness to practice nursing when she had fallen asleep while on duty. As a result, while holding an infant patient, the infant slid down her legs while she had dozed off. Shannon stated she “possibly became drowsy”, relaxed her legs, and then the infant had slid down her legs and this had prompted her to awake and scoop up the infant. Shannon stated that she assessed the infant and the infant was fine but failed to document the incident into the patient’s EMAR. Thus, resulting in an inaccurate medical record and could likely cause harm or injury to the patient following that subsequent caregivers would not have complete information to base their care decisions off of.

Measures to Prevent Action/Harm

In compliance with the TBON, Shannon had these requirements to complete to keep her nursing license active and maintain employed:

- Within 30 days: complete a TBON online course called “Understanding Board Orders.
- Within 1 year: complete A board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics that should be a minimum of 6 hours and include– standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Nursing Practice Act and submit verification.
- Within 1 year: complete the course “Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills, which is a 3.6 hour online program and submit verification.

Measures to Prevent Action/Harm

Continued

In compliance with her employment requirements:

- Shannon must work as a nurse in the State of Texas, providing direct patient care in a clinical healthcare setting for a minimum of 64 hours per month for 4 quarterly periods in 1 year.
- Shannon must notify present and future employers and present a copy of this order within 5 days of receiving this order and have each employer submit a Notification of Employment form to the board within 10 days of receiving this order.
- Shannon shall have indirect supervision by an RN or LVN who is on the premises but does not have to be on the same unit.
- Shannon must have Nursing Performance Evaluations submitted from her employer to the TBON of each 4 quarters in the year.

Universal Competencies

1. Safety & Security (Emotional & Physical): This was breached by not promoting a professional interaction with her patient by putting the patient at risk for a serious injury due to not paying attention and being physically unfit for duty. As well has not promoting trust in her ability to be a caretaker to an infant who is completely dependent on her ability to keep them safe.
2. Critical Thinking: This was breached when she had put herself into the situation not being mentally present/fit in her duties to provide the level of care and awareness that is needed when taking care of babies.
3. Standard Precaution: This was breached when the nurse created an unsafe environment for the child when becoming unconscious and/or “drowsy”.

Universal Competencies

Continued

4. Documentation: This was breached when the nurse did not document the incident into the patient's electronic medical record causing an inaccurate chart for subsequent caregivers to go off of for information regarding continued care.

5. Professional Role: This was breached while the nurse had “dozed off”, and the infant proceeded to slide down her legs, almost resulting in harm to the patient and putting serious doubt in her professional appearance.

Reaction

If I had been the first nurse to discover this incident I would take the patient and offer the nurse to explain what was going on / take a moment to reorient herself to the situation. Next would be filing an incident report as well as reporting to the charge nurse.

Then I would suggest some advice: you cannot take care of others if you do not take care of yourself first. That means getting adequate rest before shifts, coming to work prepared, eating a good diet, and knowing when to take a break/remove yourself from a potentially dangerous situation. Also, knowing when to ask for help and/or lean on your team to help you equally provide the best possible pt-centered care for every patient.

