

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Sadie Portillo

Date: 01/18/2025

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Kristina Lea Cimini, RN

License number of the defendant: 788582

Date action was taken against the license: 08/21/2018

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

- *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.*

On or around May 30, 2017, while employed at Reeves County Hospital District in Pecos, TX, Kristine displayed clear signs of slurred speech, drowsiness, vomiting, and erratic emotional behavior, including periods of crying and laughing. These symptoms strongly indicate intoxication and demonstrate that her condition impaired her ability to recognize important signs and symptoms in her patients. Furthermore, this impairment compromised her critical thinking abilities, which directly impacted her nursing decisions. On that same day, while employed at Reeves Hospital, she was requested to provide a urine specimen for a drug screening. The results of this screening came back positive for oxycodone and benzodiazepines. Being under the influence of both substances would certainly impair her ability to care for her patients safely and effectively, which may also account for her erratic behavior. This violated codes in Section 301.452(b) that talk about unprofessional conduct and substance abuse.

- *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.*

Thankfully, there were no reports of any patients being harmed in this situation. To help prevent any actions taken against her license, it would have been important to follow the hospital's policies and the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) Occupational Code. Additionally, having stronger ethical standards could have played a crucial role in preventing this issue. It is essential that nurses or any healthcare worker are not under the influence of any substances while performing their job, especially when caring for patients. Furthermore, she should have certainly refrained from going to work if she was under the influence, as this could seriously endanger patients.

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

The universal competencies that were violated were Safety and Security (emotional and physical), critical thinking, human caring and professional role.

Safety and Security (Physical & Emotional) was violated when the RN decided to show up to her shift under the influence of oxycodone and benzodiazepines; this could have easily affected her ability to have professional interactions with not only the patients but also the staff she was working with. Also, if any patients had noticed her intoxication, this would have very quickly violated any trust and respect between the nurse and patient relationship.

Critical Thinking was violated when the RN decided to show up to her shift under the influence of oxycodone and benzodiazepines; this altered her mind and affected her decisions, which could have put patients in great danger.

Human Caring was violated when the RN decided to show up to work in the first place after knowing she was under the influence. She threw out any care or respect for the patients that day by coming to work in that condition and putting their lives at risk.

Professional Role was violated as the RN came to work under the influence and in possession of those substance drugs. Doing something like that is not professional at all and would affect her interactions with her peers and her 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 notice an RN's impairment while at work, I would first notify the charge nurse. This would allow us to get other nurses to help care for the patients assigned to that RN, ensuring patient safety is not compromised. I would also check in with any patients the RN cared for to ensure everything was okay. After notifying the charge nurse, I would let her handle the situation as needed. As long as I have informed the appropriate person in the chain of command and confirmed that no patients are in harm's way, I would continue my duties and encourage the RN to seek support or help if necessary.