

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Stefanie Black

Date: 1/23/2025

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Francisco Javier Ruiz, RN License number of the defendant: 895502

Date action was taken against the license: 9/14/2021

Type of action taken against the license: Warning with Stipulations

- *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.*

Francisco Javier Ruiz performed a series of questionable acts while admitting a patient from another hospital including failing to correctly perform the dual sign off of Heparin in the patient's medical record, falsely documenting that he had hung a new bag of Heparin when the patient arrived from another hospital, instead he continued infusing the bag of Heparin that was hanging when the patient arrived by EMS. These acts led to an inaccurate medical record and exposed the patient to risk of harm from medication given without the benefit of proper verification.

The dual sign off for Heparin is in place for many reasons but perhaps most importantly, to ensure the patient receives the correct dose of the anticoagulant. Incorrect dosage could cause catastrophic results, including blood clots to form or an increased risk of bleeding.

Mr. Ruiz also falsely documented that he hung a new bag of Heparin when the patient arrived, however, he had not. Instead, he continued infusing the bag that the patient came in with. Even if the bag hanging was the appropriate medication for the patient, documenting that a new bag had been hung could expose the patient to risk of harm due to inaccurate medical records which medical providers base care on.

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.

Mr. Ruiz responded to the events by explaining the charting systems from the previous facility to his place of employment were incompatible, passwords were required, and dual sign off could not be completed without a written physician order in the system. While all of this may have been true, proper documentation and notification from the beginning would have protected the patient by providing accurate information to the care team and those deciding next steps in the patients care.

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

Universal Competencies that were violated include safety and security, critical thinking, and documentation.

Safety and Security was violated when Mr. Ruiz could not verify the 7 rights for medication administration because he was unable to scan the Heparin that arrived with the patient from the previous facility.

Critical Thinking was violated when Mr. Ruiz failed to hang a new bag and document that he had hung a new bag.

Documentation was violated when Mr. Ruiz improperly documented the entire interaction with the patient's Heparin bag.

- *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.*

As the first person to discover these actions, I would first report these findings to the charge nurse and all others up the chain of care and verify no harm had come to the patient. I would do this by running the patient's labs to verify that the infusing bag was the correct bag, with correct dosage per physician's orders. I would also go over proper steps and documentation with Mr. Ruiz to ensure his understanding of the importance of proper documentation and protocol.