

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Yari Lopez

Date: 1/21/25

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Katelyn Mary Fish, RN License number of the defendant: 921779

Date action was taken against the license: 3/10/2020

Type of action taken against the license: Warning 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.

Katelyn Mary Fish, RN held a position for eight months at the Ascension Seton Northwest Hospital, in Austin Texas. During her time in her position, she encountered multiple unprofessional actions that directed her to face disciplinary consequences. The occurrences included the estimated dates in July 2019 when she admitted to a coworker that she was unlawfully engaging in the use of “Tordal through intramuscular injections every month, that belonged to the patients or facility”. This indicated that nurse Katelyn was defrauding not only the cost assisted with this medication paid by the facility but also the responsibility of the patients paying for medical expenses that they didn't receive. These occurrences took action monthly as Katelyn elaborated to her coworker that the “use of this medication was for period cramps”. The statement in her report which included in the ER department, that she had broadly viewed the effect of this medication as relieving patients who had “debilitating pain and that this use on her behalf was “not that bad” since she also had been experiencing pain. Without an understanding of the perspective strength of this medication for serious pain, the therapeutic effect could include negative or unwanted side effects that could potentially affect her as each

individual can respond differently to Tordal. Katelyn had one charge from this unlawful use, but the use of Tordal while working could have potentially altered her functions, such as drowsiness, trouble breathing, and stomach pain that can lead to more complications. As a nurse on stronger medications than recommended for over-the-counter menstrual cramp medication is strongly placed so that our function while caring for patients is not altered. These incidents occurred monthly until her coworker encountered her alarming statements that drug diversion was occurring from nurses Katelyn for personal use. Nurse Katelyn's unethical actions lead her to receive warning with stipulations and fine towards her license, that "violated Chapter 483 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Dangerous Drugs Act)".

- 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.

Katelyn has been an RN, BSN since 2017, the main objective as a nurse is to not only care for your patients but elaborated in nursing school that to care for your patients you must care for yourself. Katelyn being a woman in a field of knowledge should understand there are different ways to treat pain, by over the counter medication, thermotherapy, and music therapy. The best way she could have taken measures to prevent these actions were to take alternate routes, dive into studies to help relieve her pain from legal techniques that are provided to the public, receive treatment from her primary care physician, notify her charge nurse of her status of pain. As no harm was done to a patient by her actions, her being a nurse for about 2 years should have understanding that these actions could still affect the future patients if the drug diversion would have

continued, could have lead to serious complications or future the use of stronger medications. The lack of knowledge of her actions going against policy, the statement “not that bad” also insisted that there is lack of training or knowledge of how drug diversion works. To have guidance of those areas by her team would have prevented and help her understanding for her personal care and moral actions.

- Identify ALL universal competencies were violated and explain how.
 - **Safety and Security (Emotional):** was violated as the RN had broke safety protocols of taking Tordal a pain medication for her own pain while on the job. The pain scale that is associated within the vitals assessment could have been a useful tool to notify her coworkers, charge nurse, or her primary care physician but should have not been used or based on her own feels and scale number of what type of pain medication she needed for her personal use.
 - **Communication:** was violated as Katelyn could have communicated her physical status of pain to her charge nurse or coworker to view the agency protocols about how even in painful settings there are other medications that could be used. That do not include what’s on the floor intended for the patients and not permittable to consume for personal use.
 - **Professional Role:** was violated when she didn’t manage her supplies in a professional way which include Tordal IV route medication. Katelyn broke Chapter 483 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Dangerous Drugs Act),

because the intend of the medication did not serve its purpose for her patients but herself.

- Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first 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.

The main course of action that I personal would take is notify the charge nurse of the violation, so that my immediate personal responsibility is completed. My second course of action would be to check on the patients, as the nurse Katelyn didn't cause any harm based on the case report, my initial response would be to make sure that any of the patients weren't harmed in any other instinct. Once I obtain all needed information to notify the physician of the status and situations on the patients. I would then ask for guidance from my charge nurse how to move forward to complete the full requirements needed in this situation.