

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Veronica Hudson Date: 4/9/2025

DAS Assignment # 2

Name of the defendant: Mary Ellen Bernardy

License number of the defendant: 559548

Date of missed court hearing: December 7, 2020

Date(s) and BON decision(s) taken against the license: April 22, 2021

Type of action(s) 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 each of them, e.g. drug diversion, HIPAA violation, abandonment, etc.*

On or about May, 13, 2010 Mary Ellen was attempting to perform a blood draw on a pediatric patient and covered the patient's mouth. This is seen as a form of battery against the patient. Mary Ellen's behavior was highly inappropriate as the result could lead to emotional, physical or psychological harm. Also, this was an inappropriate intervention that could have interfered with or disrupted the patient's treatment. A recommendation by the hospital staff was also submitted to the board of nursing for Mary Ellen's license to be revoked. Lastly, Mary Ellen did not show up to her court hearing and did not seek legal counsel to represent her in her absence.

- *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.*

If Mary Ellen was unable to successfully and safely perform the blood draw, she should have requested assistance from available staff. There are many interventions Mary Ellen could have tried to assist the distressed patient besides covering her mouth. Mary Ellen could have tried distraction techniques such as games, stuffed animals, iPad, or deep breathing. Mary Ellen could also have involved the parents in the blood draw by having them provide reassurance or allowing the patient to sit in their parent's lap. She also could have made an attempt to show up to her court hearing and defend herself, or hire someone to represent her.

- *Identify ALL universal competencies (4-5) that were violated and explain how in detail to reflect your understanding and importance of the universal competencies.*

Safety and Security (Emotional): Once Mary Ellen decided to cover the patient's mouth while performing an invasive procedure, this broke all of the trust and respect between the two. The patient's safety was in jeopardy during an act of battery and the patient's security was breached. These are very important in a pediatric patient, so they are not scarred emotionally by the incident, and have constant fear of medical personnel.

Human Caring: This patient was definitely not treated with dignity or respect. The proper amount of time was not spent to console, distract, or involve the patient, and a rushed action took away the feeling of care for her. The needs of the nurse outweighed the needs of the patient.

Critical Thinking: There was a huge lack of critical thinking by Mary Ellen. Deciding that covering a patient's mouth is a proper intervention is unacceptable. The evaluation or revision of interventions was nonexistent in this situation. There were many interventions to attempt before battery on a patient.

Professional Role: This interaction with the patient completely diminished the professional role of the nurse. The Nurse's role is always to be an advocate of the patient, and to always protect them from harm. Mary Ellen's actions only advocated for herself. Mary Ellen's role was to see the patient's emotional needs, and instead she chose to place the patient in harm's way. A nurse should also be accountable for their actions, and instead Mary Ellen chose not to appear to her hearing.

- *Use the space below to describe what actions 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.*

My first actions are to ensure the safety of the patient. I would ask the nurse to leave the area and attempt to care for the patient's immediate emotional and physical needs. I would then report the actions I had witnessed to the charge nurse and head nurse. If this did not result in any consequence, I would continue up the chain of command. If the situation was available I would attempt to talk to Mary Ellen and see where her mind was, and what could have led her to abandon her role as a nurse. I would not feel comfortable allowing this nurse to be allowed to care for pediatric patients in an environment where she could not be monitored.