

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Clarissa Perales Date: 04/09/25

DAS Assignment # 2

Name of the defendant: Russell Eugene Thomas

License number of the defendant: 953432

Date(s) and BON decision(s) taken against the license: 12/10/2019 Reprimand with Stipulations

3/8/2022 Revoked

Type of action(s) imposed to retain or regain licensure, if applicable (ex.: warning with stipulations, etc.)

- *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.*

Russell Thomas created multiple occurrences of unprofessional activity while in a clinical setting that led to all of the given disciplinary actions. The unprofessional actions included: Failing to properly place intravenous catheter, failure to assess function and patency of catheter, incorrect documentation of patent intravenous catheter, failure to administer intravenous antibiotics, failure to assess vital signs, incorrect administration of suppository vaginally when ordered to be administered rectally, failure to conduct the National Institute of Health Stroke Score.

False documentation leads to inaccurate medical records and causes harm to the patients and gives false information to any health care providers that help the patients later. Nurse Russell Thomas failed to administer the patients' antibiotic medications. The nurse's negligence can lead to severe or fatal results. Failure to assess vital signs as it was assigned to do. Nurses check vital signs to gather a baseline before any medications are given so the nurse can analyze any changes in the patient's status, and to assess how they are responding to medications.

Nurse Russell Thomas incorrectly administered medication, it was given vaginally rather than rectally therefore leading the patient to many risks and harm. The nurses stated that the patient was nauseous and in pain and refused any oral medications. The nurse informed the physician, and an order was made for medication via suppository. The nurse stated he felt rushed and that during the administration the lights were dimmed. This led to the suppository given vaginally this instance was corrected and later given rectally. This can lead the patient to multiple complications.

Nurse Russell Thomas failed to assess the function and patency of the intravenous catheter. In this specific situation, Nurse Russell had a shift change and was able to report to the nurse that he did not

have enough time to assess the function of the catheter or the lack thereof. This is very concerning, and it is the nurses' job to check the catheters' function and patency. Not checking for function and patency can lead to dislodgement, blockage and a list of other complications.

The nurse also failed to complete the National Institute of Health Stroke Score (NIHSS) and falsely documented that they did it at 0830 before he completed the assessment. This scale measures neurological function in patients with signs and symptoms of a stroke. It is extremely important to fully finish this assessment no matter what we think or believe.

- *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.*

Many measures could have been taken to ensure that the patients were taken care of efficiently. First, taking time to place an intravenous catheter correctly, check for functionality, and patency is the best practice of care when ensuring safety to the patient during the placement of an intravenous catheter. The nurse could have made sure to make time and take all the steps of correct catheterization to ensure patient safety.

The nurse failed to administer the proper medications and failed to administer medications in the correct route. He was meant to administer antibiotic medications intravenously; he could have set time aside to be able to administer the medication, he could have managed time properly to administer medications so that the patient could receive them. The nurse incorrectly administered rectal suppository medication in the patient's vagina. The nurse stated that medication was administered in a dimmed lit room. He could have turned on the lights to ensure that the medication was properly administered. Also, he could have positioned the patient correctly to prepare the site for medication administration.

Failure to assess the patient and complete the NIHSS and falsely document that it was done could have all been avoided. The nurse could have completed the assessment, documented that the assessment had been done, and notified the nurse manager of the findings.

- *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 was violated when the RN incorrectly administered medication via the wrong route, this violated the 7 rights for medication administration. The loss of trust was violated when the RN was scheduled to administer antibiotics intravenously and failed to do so. Russell Thomas continued to violate safety and security with incorrect illegal documentation. Furthermore, he failed to assess vital signs and did not make time to do them.

Documentation was violated as the RN dishonestly documented performing the NIHSS when he had not yet completed it. The RN also documented that the intravenous catheter was patent when he did not check it as he stated he did not have time to address the nonfunctioning catheter.

Critical Thinking was violated when the nurse failed to assess vital signs on the patient when it was assigned for the patient. The RN's decision making was lacking when he gave the suppository medication in the vagina rather than the anus, also when he decided to not give his patient the antibiotics that were ordered. The RN did not prioritize the insertions of the intravenous catheter since he failed to check its patency and to ensure it was functioning correctly. Finally, when the RN failed to correctly document and complete the NIHSS for the patients' symptoms.

Professional Role was violated by neglecting all regards of a competent RN. All aspects of their job are to make sure they are being honest and caring for the patient. They failed to be honest while documenting and when caring for their patients' health.

- *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.*

Had I been the first to discover the indicated events, I would report this to the nurse manager, and make certain that all physicians in charge of these patients were aware of these findings. I would confirm no other harm has happened and take the patient's care in my hands. I would take baseline vital signs and verify with their physician if they needed any other precautions taken like tests, assessments or labs. I would assess the catheter insertion site, assess the patient who incorrectly received the suppository medication vaginally, and complete the NIHSS assessment on the patient who showed symptoms of a stroke. I would then review the situations with the RN to disclose the errors to attempt to understand their thought process of the situations.