

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Cesareo Melendez

Date: 04/11/2025

DAS Assignment #2

Name of the defendant: ARLENE MARIE BALLENGER

License number of the defendant: 756866

Date(s) and BON decision(s) taken against the license: 08/06/2020, LICENSE SURRENDER

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

Respondent was given the opportunity to comply with all needed requirements of the law in the State of Texas to be allowed to retain her license. The nurse waived her right for notice and a hearing and agreed to enter the Order given, the nurses license was allowed to remain current active status for her to practice in Texas.

On the date of May 12, 2020 during her regular nursing shift and while employed as a Registered Nurse with St. David's North Austin Medical Center, located in Austin, Texas; nurse Arlene Marie Ballenger working on the Medical-Surgical Unit was reported to have lacked proper nursing practice. Nurse was observed to show signs of being impaired or under the influence such as drowsiness, falling asleep at nurses' station, asking questions that did not make sense and falling asleep while having conversations. Furthermore, on the same date and on the same floor, Arlene failed to administer by a physician's order a dose of Heparin to patient H00078007 that was scheduled to be given at 1630 but was given by a nurse in the next shift at 2050.

Nurse Arlene agreed to waive her right for notice and a hearing and agreed to enter the Orders as given, therefore allowing her to keep her license from being revoked. Nurse could have not shown up for her scheduled shift and called in if she was impaired and unable to perform her duties. Proper documentation of patient's medication should be followed to ensure all medications are accounted for and proper nursing techniques are followed during administration of medications and avoid patient harm.

Safety and Security was a a universal competency that was violated as the 7 rights for Medication administration were not correctly followed with failing to administer the medication at the correct time and failure to document any other events.

Communication is another competency that was violated as patient education of during the correct administration of medication was not observed and therefore medication safety was not stressed to patient at the proper time.

Documentation was another universal competency that was violated as there was a lack of documentation since the medication was not administered at the correct time. The 7 rights of medication administration say documentation must be done when, since the nurse failed to administer at the correct time they failed to document.

Human caring was another violation as nurse failed to give the patient the care they needed and failing to provide the medication at correct time. This placed the patient at risk for blood coagulation issues since Heparin is a coagulant.

The prudent nurse would have reported the observed impairment to charge nurse or any other head nurse. I would reported right away and made sure the impaired nurse was not allowed near any patients and escorted out of the hospital. Also I would have properly documented everything from nurses actions and missing medication administration. I would comply with any questions The Texas Board of Nursing would have in regards to event.