

WORKPLACE CHALLENGE



May 2019 ~ Workplace Challenge Assignment

You are in the break room at the hospital during your 7pm to 7am shift in the Emergency Room. One of your co-workers, Stephen, approaches you with concerns about another nurse. He feels she has been acting strangely the last few weeks, like she is in a daze during her shifts.

Stephen asks you if you think drug use is an issue for this nurse. You know the nurse that Stephen is referring to and stick up for her, saying you've known her for almost five years and don't think she would ever use drugs.

However, after this conversation you notice this nurse doing inappropriate things during her shifts:

- Coming out of the restroom with a syringe.
- Discreetly taking prescription pain meds from the ER Pharmacy; putting some in her pocket and putting a few in her mouth and chewing them up.
- When you noticed her leaving the pharmacy one night, you followed her into the rest room and found her snorting something.

Did you know substance abuse occurs across all generations, cultures, and occupations, including nursing. About 1 in 10, or 10-15% of all nurses, may be impaired or in recovery from alcohol or drug addiction. Although nurses **aren't** at a higher increase risk than the public sector, their overall pattern of dependency is unique because they have greater access to drugs in the work environment.

- What do you do? Do you go back to Stephen and confirm his beliefs of drug use? Do you let the other nurses in the Emergency Room know? Do you report this to management? Or all of the above? Why?
- Do you believe quality patient care provided by a nurse who is impaired by drug addiction is jeopardized? Why?

Please respond to this Workplace Challenge Assignment by typing your response in essay format and uploading it.

This assignment is due by Friday, May 31st.

Your Career Coach will have an opportunity to read your response and discuss on-line his/her thoughts about how you responded. I encourage you to respond back to your Career Coach and ask questions!

Remember:

- Put your name and the date at the top of your assignment.
- Put effort into writing your response.
- Make sure it is written professionally and you proof it before you upload it.
- Your Career Coach may be a future employer or even a job reference - DO THE ASSIGNMENT WELL!
- If you have questions about the assignment, please let Mrs. Blackburn right away (kblackburn@nahecnet.org).