Ethical and professional issues

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Introduction

Any healthcare professional must uphold ethical principles. Ethos, which means character in Greek, is the origin of the word ethics. Ethics are universal standards of behaviour that serve as a useful guide for determining the behaviours, reasons, and intentions that are appreciated. [1] Ethics are moral principles that guide a person's or a group's behaviour and conduct. The emphasis is on good and incorrect behaviour, as well as the process of choosing which course of action to take and what will happen as a result. [2] Everyone has a unique set of personal principles and ethics. Because healthcare professionals must detect ethical challenges and make moral decisions while abiding by the regulations that control them, ethics within the industry is crucial. Nurses, like all healthcare professionals, require control and direction within the field in order to work competently and honourably. [3] To this end, the American Nurses Association (ANA) created the Code of Ethics.

Every speciality of Registered Nurses (RNs) will face an ethical problem or conundrum at some point. A circumstance in which the nurse must decide between two "right" but opposing values—those of the nurse and those of the other parties (the patient, the patient's family, other healthcare professionals, or a mix of these)—is an ethical challenge in nursing. The decision eventually doesn't comport with someone's ideals, which leads to a conundrum. RNs need to be able to identify these ethical issues and resolve them by utilizing the appropriate resources and maintaining a professional practice. At the same time however, nurses should support the best outcome for the patient by being an advocate for their rights and respecting their cultural and individual needs. Navigating and subsequently achieving a satisfactory resolution in these ethical dilemmas can certainly pose a challenge, but are essential and core patient care skills for RNs.

When decisions must be taken yet there are imperfect possibilities and unclear answers, ethical problems arise. Poorer patient care, troubled clinical relationships, and moral distress—which is defined as knowing what is right to do but not being able to do it—could be the outcomes. Because of their leadership and mentoring responsibilities, nurse managers in particular are vulnerable to moral anguish and nursing ethics problems. Nurse managers are trusted by nurses and other medical personnel to make morally sound judgments. Registered nurses (RNs) should be aware of the role ethical decision-making plays in daily work before assuming a position as a nurse management. Students in the Master of Science in Nursing programme at Duquesne University learn about the principles of moral leadership and management from lecturers with practical expertise. (4)

The American Nurses Association Code of Ethics, which was created as a standard for nursing responsibilities "in a way compatible with excellence in nursing care and the ethical obligations of the profession," serves as the foundation for ethical decision-making for nurse management. By using the Code of Ethics in their everyday lives and employing their leadership skills to do so, nurse managers assist in resolving moral dilemmas in nursing.(4)

Ethical dilemmas in nursing

Nurse managers can evaluate ethical concerns in nursing using the criteria set out in the ANA Code of Ethics. However, how it approaches moral conundrums might change depending on the circumstance. When nurses lack the necessary tools to do their responsibilities, an ethical quandary may arise in healthcare institutions. Nurses who observe a colleague's ignorance are faced with the moral choice of whether to bring the situation up with their nurse management. Nurse managers can make a concerted effort to educate their nurses on the Code of Ethics as well as the Code of Ethics for their particular medical facility in order to assist resolve this ethical conundrum. Additionally, nurse supervisors can regularly teach their staff members' nurses on persistent problems. (4)

Regarding patient privacy, there is still another ethical dilemma in nursing. Although nurses and nurse managers have access to a patient's medical history and records, they are not permitted by law or ethical standards to disclose this information to anyone other than the patient. While keeping in mind the necessity to preserve patients' privacy and medical information, nurses should always have their patients' best interests in mind. (5)

## The Code of Ethics in Nursing

The Code of Ethics in Nursing was first created in the 1950s by the American Nurses Association (ANA). It has changed throughout time to recognise and address the ever-expanding range of nursing specialist areas, contemporary technology developments, updates to general clinical and nursing policies, and socioeconomic shifts brought on by a more diverse national population. Its objective is to offer a well-organized, unambiguous set of ethical standards that expressly state and define the nurse's professional obligations, guiding principles, obligations, and limits of responsibility. Autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice are the four cornerstones of nursing ethics, according to the American Nurses Association (ANA). (5)

Autonomy

All clinical information on a patient's health state, including risks and potential problems, should be provided to and made available to the patient so they may make an educated medical decision for themselves based on their own personal values and beliefs. The patient has the freedom to refuse any therapy, including medicine or even surgery, regardless of its prospective health benefits, even when it frequently directly conflicts with accepted care recommendations or best practises. In consideration of the patient's autonomy, nurses must respect such choices.

### Beneficence

Beneficence is the act of advancing kindness via the expression of our innate feelings of compassion and love for one another. By being considerate and courteous to patients, as well as by respecting their decisions and preferences, nurses exhibit this beneficence.

### Non-Maleficence

No damage shall be done to any patient. The most well-known nursing ethical guideline is probably non-maleficence, yet it is also the hardest to live up to. By adhering to this principle, nurses are required to select medical interventions that produce the best results while posing the fewest risks to patients. However, when a patient exercises their right to autonomy and declines to take life-saving medication or comply with a treatment regimen, for instance, nurses are faced with an ethical conundrum.

Justice

 RNs are obligated to give equal treatment to all patients, regardless of ethnicity or colour, cultural background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or financial position. This sort of ethical quandary is common inpatient triage circumstances, in which nurses must determine which patients need emergency medical treatment over others.

**Ethical issues**

Policy development and allocation of resources

Strategic planners, decision-makers, and managers may perceive needs very differently from clinical personnel, who provide direct patient or client care. Although it is still largely believed that a lack of funding is the fundamental constraint on basic healthcare, concerns about quality and safety are increasingly coming into play. The goal is to find a way to ensure that individuals who are old and chronically ill receive the same level of care as those who are acutely ill or injured and need immediate medical attention. (6)

 **Balancing interests** The need to strike a balance between a person's rights and quality of life and the need to wisely employ finite resources is at the root of many ethical dilemmas. This means that due to a lack of resources, patients who seek to express their autonomy in respect to treatment decisions may be unable to do so. According to Dines and Cribb (1993), autonomy is essential to human health and happiness. But occasionally, a person's autonomy and physical well-being may be at odds with the community's physical and financial prosperity. Downie and CaIman (1987) questioned whether any limits need to be imposed on people who may be harmful to the community's health. .(6)

**Patients'rights**--The organisation and delivery of patient and client care, the amount of information provided, and the level of patient involvement in care vary greatly around the globe. These variances are mostly the result of historical growth, policy choices, and ethnic, racial, and cultural influences that have developed in the various nations. Several nations have enacted patient charters or bills of rights since the start of this decade (DoH, 1996b). . Many of these texts essentially state the same thing. For instance, after receiving a thorough explanation of their health status, a patient must consent to therapy. If such explanations are to be ethical and show respect for the persons involved, they must include the diagnosis, the level of therapy and care required, the risk factors involved, and any workable alternatives to the advised course of action. (6)

The goal of advocacy in the medical field is to advance and protect the rights and interests of patients and clients. 98 Nursing and Midwifery Practice's Ethical Issues (UKCC, 1996). Community nurses who are trying to protect both the interests of service users and their employers may jeopardise either themselves or their integrity in the process of standing up for others. Conflict examples can include grumblings about inadequate staffing or an improper skill mix.

Community-based nurses have broadened their scope of practise, and some have taken on the position of nurse practitioner. The nurse practitioner is a person who: • Makes professional autonomous judgments for which she/he is solely responsible, according to the Royal College of Nursing Institute of Advanced Nursing Education (RCNIANE, 1989). • Has a broad range of abilities in the physical, psychological, and social domains, particularly in the areas of diagnosis, prescription, counselling, and health promotion. (6)

**Competence**

There is a lot of room for the development of talents that cross traditional lines of professional demarcation, barring any explicit statutory regulation that mandates that a given professional perform certain tasks. The focus in nursing today is on competence, knowledge, and skills. Hunt and Wainwright (1994), however, pose the question, "How do nurses know when they are competent, how does the employer evaluate the competency of a specific employee, and how do the pIn each of the countries under consideration, the challenge of defining competence seems to burden the nursing profession. Similar to the UK, Finland, Sweden, and Greece regularly discuss the moral dilemmas raised by ineptitude. Everyone seems to agree that, aside from the nursing profession, ineptitude occasionally exists in medicine and in occupations related to medicine. Finding the incompetent practitioner does not appear to be the issue; rather, it is the quick "closed door policy" that follows such an incidence. profession and the legal system decide competence?"

The challenge of defining competence seems to burden the nursing profession in each nation under consideration. The ethical concerns accompanying ineptitude are ones that are frequently discussed in Finland, Sweden, and Greece, similarly to the UK. Everyone seems to agree that ineptitude can occasionally be seen in the nursing field as well as in medicine and related professions. It appears that the issue is not finding the inept practitioner, but rather the quick "closed door policy" that follows such an incidence.(6)

## **Common Ethical Situations for Nurse Managers and Nursing Ethics**

Even though nursing is a fast-paced profession with constantly changing obstacles, many nurse supervisors describe encountering similar moral conundrums. According to a recent study, decision-making, staffing, advanced care planning, and defending patients' rights are the most frequent and difficult ethical circumstances. The fact that so many novice nurses are joining the profession and many of them have never had to deal with ethical dilemmas in nursing is aggravating the situation. Due to these difficulties, skilled nurse managers are even more essential to the nation's ongoing healthcare demands.

**Honesty vs. withholding information.**

In order to preserve the patients' feelings, family members may desire to keep medical information from sick people. Patients do, however, have a right to information regarding their medical issues. It might be difficult to decide how to disclose this knowledge, especially if it contradicts the family's values. The ANA promotes honesty as a crucial element in nurse-patient interactions.

**Science vs. spirituality.** Science and religion. Healthcare, which is science-based and results-oriented, may conflict with one's personal or religious convictions. Some faiths forbid using life-saving measures and medical procedures. Nurses concentrate on providing medical care in order to lessen pain and free patients up to focus on self-care. The emphasis may be on following a stringent set of rules for patients or their families who have strong religious or spiritual beliefs. Nursing professionals are expected to respect the "unique distinctions of the patient," including "lifestyle, value system, and religious views," according to the ANA Code of Ethics. Respect for a viewpoint, however, "does not indicate that the nurse personally endorses such ideas or actions."

• **Healthcare needs vs. resource allocation.**  Resources allocated versus healthcare requirements. Nurse managers are increasingly at conflict with patient requirements and budgetary restrictions as healthcare costs rise. Patients run the danger of not receiving the care they require since there are several medical institutions with insufficient resources. These resources include anything from medical technology to medical personnel. According to research, nurse supervisors should involve employees in budgeting so they may better understand requirements and desires.

**Beneficence vs. autonomy.** Although patients have the option to decline medications, nurses are compelled to provide them. Despite having well stated requirements, patient autonomy might conflict with medical recommendations. All medical care can be refused by patients. The ANA emphasises the demand for nurses and nurse managers to comprehend patient histories and unique situations in order to explain the medical necessity to patients. According to ANA, applying ethical principles to find a solution should be done in a setting of kindness, respect, candour, and transparency. The best available evidence-based practise guidelines should be used in this process, which should be based on an ethically sound decision-making paradigm.

**Contemporary Ethical Issues in Nursing**

[Legal and ethical issues in nursing](https://nrsng.org/nursing-rules-of-conduct/) can cause nurses a variety of problems. You must resolve these conundrums as a healthcare provider while upholding the highest standards of care and attentiveness. Patients' rights are protected by law, and nurses are required to work in the patient's best interests. However, dealing with a lot of nursing-related difficulties can be stressful and challenging. The following are a few of the most frequent moral and legal conundrums. Nurses can pick up on how to handle them and stave off future problems.. A common ethical issue for nurses involves consent. Informed consent is the process by which patients consent to a particular course of treatment. To obtain this consent, you have to make sure that you provide a thorough explanation to the patient, and ensure that they sign the document. Informed and uninformed consent are not the same thing. If a patient is not in full agreement with a treatment, they are not likely to give their consent.

While providing care to a patient, nurses are obligated to abide by a code of ethics and obey regulations. For nurses, there are standards of ethics from both the American Medical Association and the World Medical Association. State and federal standards of practise and care are also available. Additionally, they provide position papers on moral matters. One such position paper on the moral use of narcotic analgesics at the end of life is published by the ANA. Additionally, the American Nurses Federation and the International Nurses Association have codes of ethics. Privacy is a big issue for nurses. Nurses may have access to patient information and medical histories depending on the sort of nursing care they provide.it may be illegal for a nurse to divulge this information to the public in several areas. Although this is typically allowed, it's crucial to protect the patient's privacy. Additionally, it is unlawful for a nurse to trample on a patient's right to privacy. Because of the nature of the job, legal and ethical difficulties in nursing frequently come up. In deciding how to care for a patient, nurses are faced with challenging decisions. The wellbeing of patients can be impacted by a variety of legal and ethical conundrums.

someone without their consent is permissible. Respecting patients' rights is crucial if you're a nurse if you want to provide high-quality treatment. Nurses must think about their patients' welfare in addition to the law and ethics. A nurse may occasionally feel exposed to a moral dilemma. It's critical to keep the patient safe in such circumstances and to steer clear of any potential threats. The welfare of the patient is frequently at risk. The nursing profession depends on having the freedom to select the optimal therapy. But a nurse must also take the patient's sentiments into account. Giving care to a patient may lead to additional ethical dilemmas for nurses.

Thankfully, hospitals have ethics committees to assist nurses in handling such situations. A nurse should always put the patient's needs first. The safety of the patient and the nurse's reputation are both at stake in this, thus it is crucial. A nurse should remain impartial and unbiased in this situation. In all circumstances, a nurse must be truthful and uphold the law. Additionally, a nurse should be able to respect the patient's rights. Although there are a few solutions, nursing's legal and ethical problems can be challenging. Another strategy to defend the rights of the patient is to act in his or her best interests. Respecting the patient's right to decline medical care is one of the nurse's ethical obligations. Furthermore It's also critical to preserve the patient's dignity.

Standards of moral judgement and professional behaviour are considered in ethics. Patients, the general public, employers, and the nursing community all hold nurses in high regard. They must possess a thorough awareness of the numerous ethical, legal, and professional challenges they will encounter during their employment. In addition to many others, nurses have three main responsibilities: the responsibility of autonomy, the duty of confidentiality, and the duty of care for all patientsThe concepts of beneficence, which refers to doing good or working in the interests of patients, and non-maleficence, which means to avoid harm, are added to these obligations. In the event that any laws or regulations are broken while in practise, these obligations will turn into legal obligations. After an increase in legal cases and public inquiries, a 2001 survey indicated that there was a perceived need for more guidance on ethical difficulties within the health profession. In order to give thorough ethics support, a number of Clinical Ethics Committees (CECs) and Research Ethics Committees (RECs) were created in the UK. Medical professionals must be aware of emerging ethical challenges for the medical sector and understand how to deal with them as a result of the constantly shifting values in health, behavioural science, and society.
The nursing profession adheres to its own code of ethics, which is governed by stringent disciplinary rules. The regulating organisation has more power over its members than medical legislative bodies. Some conditions for a new nursing school curriculum were specified by the Department of Health's Health Service Circular 219.99. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is mandated to set minimum standards and specifications for nursing education in professional and ethical issues under the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001. iv The NMC is a governmental agency that was founded to safeguard the public. It controls the standards for medical and nursing professionals through the Register of Medical Practitioners (RMP). The Register acts to allow the GMC to monitor entry to the profession only by achieving the standards required to become an RMP, and also by monitoring fitness to practice proceedings to ensure all practitioners maintain consistently high standards of conduct. The NMC contains guidelines regarding the expectations of particular duties such as confidentiality, medical research obligations, consent rights, and autonomy. The nursing practice is expected to comply at an individual level with these guidelines on a daily basis.

**Current Ethical Issues in Nursing**

Examples of Moral Issues Patients, doctors, other nurses, and the organisations that employ nurses frequently experience ethical issues. Additionally, nurses are frequently the ones who have the greatest moral dilemma when good practise appears to call for them to go against their moral principles. Consider the mini-cases that are provided and try to decide what to say. The above-discussed procedure for making moral judgments ought to be favourable.Patients and nurses Paternalism (acting on behalf of patients without their consent to secure good or prevent harm), deception, confidentiality, allocation of limited nursing resources, advocacy, valid consent or refusal, conflicts between the patient's and nurse's values and interests, and conflicts involving new technologies are just a few of the difficult nurse-patient scenarios that can cause ethical issues for nurses.

PATERNALISM A nursing home resident who is alert and in immediate risk of falling upon getting out of bed refuses to call the nurse for assistance. The nurse can decide whether to ask for a prescription to limit the patient. If the aim is to avoid potential harm,Is it appropriate for a nurse to behave in the role of a "parent" and decide on a course of action that the patient does not want because the nurse thinks it is best for the patient?

IDECEPTION Is this your debut attempt? As the student nurse gets about to administer an intramuscular injection of a painkiller, a postoperative patient asks a question. The student is anxious because this will be their first attempt. If the student wanted to reduce the patient's concern, would saying "No, I've given several before" to the patient be acceptable?

 CONFIDENTIALITY The nurse turns to a middle-aged woman who is gently crying and asks, "Would you like to share what's upsetting you?" The patient is informed by the woman that she entered the country illegally two months ago and that she is currently working to support her family back home. She is unsure about how she will pay for her trip to the clinic. She requests the nurse's protection in this regard. If the nurse thinks the woman's anxiety is keeping her from receiving the care she needs, would it be moral to dent her confidence in order to get her the treatment she needs?

SCARCE NURSING RESOURCES' SETTING Due to the recent dismissal of a nurse, your unit is currently understaffed. One of your patients, a 33-year-old man recovering from a heart attack who is leaving the hospital in the morning (he tells you he still has many questions), another, an elderly patient who is on the verge of passing away, and another, a cancer patient who has been throwing up all day and is in excruciating pain, are among your patients. You are aware that you are unable to adequately meet everyone's requirements. What is the "distribution" of your nursing services? ( You enjoy that the patient will go home the next morning.

ADVOCATION IN A SETTING DRIVEN BY THE MARKET A hospitalised 57-year-old woman who underwent two significant colon resections was recently informed by her insurance company that she must be discharged right away since her permitted length of stay has been surpassed. She lives alone and is unable to receive caregiving assistance from any family members or friends. In your opinion, she would benefit greatly from additional hospital stays so that she could build her self-confidence and learn how to take care of herself. She doesn't have the money to pay for more days. How are you acting?

CONSENT VALID OR REFUSAL As you are aware, the teenager being attempted to get spinal-tapped detests the resident. The teenager tells the adult to tell the residents to stop after one failed attempt. The resident requests that you give the patient an anti-anxiety drug so that the spinal tap can be finished as quickly as feasible. If the patient is no longer on board with the procedure, should you still provide the medication?

CONTROVERSIES OVER THE PATIENT'S AND NURSE'S INTERESTS A drunk homeless man who has been a frequent visitor to the emergency hospital comes up one night. He doesn't appear to have showered or changed his clothes in days. He has TB and hepatitis B, according to the diagnosis. One nurse declines to accept him as a patient because of fear that she might infect her 8-month-old child while nursing him.

The other nurses inform her that accepting this assignment is her "responsibility" and that no one else is willing to fill in for her. Is it ever acceptable for a nurse to decline to treat a patient who has been placed under their care? Arguments involving NEW technologies An infertile woman questions you about in vitro fertilisation. She acknowledges having a child for her husband and in-laws out of "desperation," but she also expresses grave reservations about the entire process. It would kill me to think that I have seven potential children "on ice," but I've read of couples who have seven frozen embryos.nurses and doctors Nurses may experience ethical difficulty in nurse-physician settings. Common issues include squabbles over a suggested treatment plan, disputes over the extent of the nurse's responsibilities, and incompetent doctors.

CONTRADICTIONS WITH THE PROPOSED MEDICAL REGIMEN Any patient who loses a considerable amount of weight (more than 10%) in the nursing home where you work. .”One of the patients is being put through these tests despite your severe objections since she has made it obvious that she wants to die and will starve to death if that is the only option available to her. The medical director advises the patient to undergo the diagnostic tests because there has a long history of patient family unhappiness with the medical care provided by the hospital. The director does not want to make things worse. Are you in charge of planning the patient's appointment and getting them ready for these diagnostic tests? Exist any reasons to abstain from participating?

CONFLICTS RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF THE NURSE'S ROLE

 a teenage girl in need This patient would no doubt benefit much from the young enterostomal therapist on staff who also has a colostomy. He makes it clear that in this instance, the nurse must comply with his directions. Is it within the scope of nursing to suggest the enterostomal therapist to the woman? Is the nurse required to offer this guidance to the patient?

NOT PROFESSIONAL, INCOMPETENT, ETHICAL, OR LAWFUL MEDICAL PRACTICE by PHYSICIAN A paediatric surgeon who has been working there for a while notices a change in an operating room nurse. She tells the nurse how afraid and dreading the surgery and how she would have a colostomy for the rest of her life. Following his recent divorce, rumours have been spreading that the surgeon has a cocaine misuse issue. When the nurse notifies the surgeon of this suggestion, the surgeon responds that he does all of his own patient education and counselling and does not "believe" in enterostomal therapists. One paediatric patient's parents inquire about the surgeon's skills after becoming unsatisfied with the patient's recovery. Should the nurse express private worries? Is the nurse required to file a complaint about the doctor with the appropriate hospital authority for review? Nurses and Additional Nurses The interactions between nurses can lead to some of the most challenging ethical issues, which may be made more difficult by commitments of friendshipClaims of allegiance and nurse ineptitude are issues.

 APRENDICES OF LOYALTY The other nurse on the unit is informed by the nurse working the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift, "I just made rounds and everyone is OK. Please take care of everything while I get an hour of sleep. I had a terrible day. She fails to inform the additional nurse that a report indicated one patient need particular monitoring. While the nurse is sleeping, this patient passes very suddenly. She begs the other nurse, who is a friend, not to tell anyone that she was sleeping when she wakes up and realises what has occurred. She explains, "That patient may have passed away any time in between my roundsIn addition, aren't you my best friend?

NURSE PRACTICE THAT IS NOT PROFESSIONAL, INCOMPETENT, ETHICAL, OR ILLEGAL A patient tells you during your morning rounds that a nurse fondled her during the previous night shift and made sexual comments about her body. Because you like the concerned nurse, you have a suspicion that the patient may be deliberately trying to cause trouble. As a result, you find it difficult to believe the patient. What ought you to do? Institutional nursing, public policy, and nurses The institutional and public policy spheres present particular challenges as nurses take on more responsibility for decision-making at all levels of care. Short staffing, whistleblowing, and healthcare rationing are three current instances.

WHISTLE-BLOWING AND SHORT STAFFING The unit where you work has been chronically understaffed as a result of restructuring. You think that there are now too few nurses to deliver high-quality treatment, putting patients at danger. A few nurses have been discussing organising a union and going on strike. You are not sure if striking is a morally acceptable alternative since yours is the only major hospital in a small town. You are also thinking about "coming public" with your worries because repeated attempts to involve management in resolving the problems have failed. You are confident that your brother, who works for the neighbourhood newspaper, will agree to write a piece about the circumstances at the hospital. How do you behave?

RATIONING OF HEALTHCARE Up to 43 million people in the US lack adequate insurance, which limits their access to healthcare. The question of whether or not every person has a "right" to basic healthcare is still up for debate. The alternatives available to the elderly, the underprivileged, the terminally sick, and members of society that many consider to have little "social worth" could be restricted under ideas for rationing healthcare. What moral duty do you have to add to this discussion? How do you make sure that the nursing perspective is heard?.Personal moral principles and institutional or professional ethics of nurses In some cases, nurses face challenges to their personal ethical integrity because what they feel should be done in a given circumstance is prohibited by the ethics of their profession or place of employment.

 BIRTH-AFTER-LIFE CONCERNS You work as a psychiatric mental health nurse in a Catholic hospital, where abortion and abortion counselling are prohibited by ethical and religious standards. You are speaking with a single woman with bipolar disorder who was recently admitted to the hospital and is in the first trimester of an unplanned pregnancy. She is very conflicted about continuing the pregnancy.

You personally feel that it is your ethical responsibility to discuss abortion with this woman and to send her to outside resources in the event that she decides to have the baby. You are informed by the charge nurse that these are not suitable options for this hospital. ISSUES RELATING TO DEATH You are the nurse case manager for a woman who previously had breast cancer and experienced a recurrence of the disease (spinal metastases) after 7 years of cancer-free living. When you visit her at home, she constantly expresses her desire to pass away with dignity while still in charge and that she is no longer willing to fight. *IBefore her anguish worsens, she begs you to fetch her something that will "put me gently to sleep once and for all." You genuinely think that she would benefit more from avoiding the terminal stage of her sickness and that this is her sincere wish, not just depression speaking. But according to your religious convictions, assisted suicide is never acceptable. How do you balance your desire to assist this woman with the moral obligations of your line of work and your belief that what she is requesting is inherently wrong? for a more thorough examination of moral concerns with dying.*

***nformed Consent***

not informed or do not comprehend the procedures carried out on a patient. In certain cases, patients may not feel comfortable asking questions or giving consent because they do not completely understand the ramifications of their therapy. Patients are more likely to adhere to a treatment plan and have better results if they feel supported and trust their doctors and nurses. Nurses should make sure that patients comprehend every aspect of their treatment plans in order to avoid ethical problems. Knowing all the hazards and the specifics of how an operation will be carried out, as well as how specific drugs and therapies may affect them, are among the details. If not, patient safety may be at risk, and hospitals may incur significant expenses. *In order to acquire informed consent, healthcare professionals must take all reasonable steps to ensure that their patients understand the treatment plan.*

***Protecting Patient Privacy and Confidentiality***

Concerns over patient confidentiality and privacy are serious ethical dilemmas for nurses. If done incorrectly, this could have legal repercussions and have a negative impact on healthcare providers. There are clear limits and procedures for preserving patients' privacy since the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPA) protects medical information about individuals. Nurses must respect patient autonomy while also upholding their patients' rights and acting in their best interests.All healthcare personnel should respect patient autonomy, which is the freedom of patients to autonomously make decisions about their care based on personal or cultural belief systems. Patients have the choice to reject treatments, drugs, or operations when they are autonomous. Nursing staff must respect this choice and carry it out even if it runs counter to advice from doctors and other healthcare professionals.

***Shared Patient Decision-Making***

When healthcare professionals fully controlled patient care in the past, shared decision-making is a much more moral approach to patient care. When patients and healthcare professionals collaborate to make the best decision feasible for a patient's treatment, this practise enhances patient autonomy. By engaging in frank discussions about a patient's background, values, beliefs, and culture, healthcare professionals and patients can establish a trusted working relationship. Without a relationship, nurses and other healthcare providers will have a very difficult time getting patients to comply and communicate effectively. Patients are more likely to be satisfied with their care and have more faith in the doctor's treatment recommendations when they actively participate in decision-makingdecision-makidecision-making.

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**Advanced care planning**

Healthcare providers find it challenging to discuss advanced care planning, especially when end-of-life care discussions are involved. These discussions take place between patients and doctors when they need to make arrangements for their future medical care in the event that they pass away or become too ill to do it on their own. Patients will investigate, talk about, and record their individual healthcare preferences. They are able to define their own beliefs and goals about potential medical care through this approach. Additionally, if they are unable to make decisions for themselves, they will disclose who they would like to make healthcare decisions for them. The challenging duty of ensuring that these preferences are stated and respected in a medical emergency typically falls to nurses. For instance, a problem can arise if a patient requests not to be placed on a ventilator but their immediate family insists otherwise. Despite the challenging scenario, nurses must prioritise patients' needs and desires, particularly when providing end-of-life care.

**inadequate staffing and resources**

Even though it's not always a moral dilemma for specific nurses, hospital administrators and nurse supervisors need to be aware of the inadequate funding and staffing for patient care. Nurse managers are at conflict with budgetary restrictions and patient needs as healthcare expenses rise. Patients run the danger of not receiving the right care when medical facilities are short on resources, forcing nurses to make challenging choices.When facilities are confronted with insufficient employee numbers, difficult decisions may also need to be taken. Nurses do not have the time to care for each patient as thoroughly when there is not enough staff to care for the patients. Recovery times or even attending to the patient's emotional and physical requirements are examples of patient needs. Due to time constraints and stress overload, a nurse's moral duties to patients are jeopardised. They are left struggling mentally as they try to determine where they should prioritise.

**Dealing with Ethical Issues in Nursing**

For nurses, dealing with ethical dilemmas is a very difficult task. Nurses are frequently questioned about medical procedures and how to handle moral conundrums. They frequently must make these choices on the spot as well. Through a combination of patient interaction and years of expertise, they can learn how to handle these situations. High levels of empathy are common among nurses, which enables them to establish professional boundaries around their patient care and have honest interactions with their patients. When discussing the choice that will benefit the patient the most, they should be honest and open to disagreement. Reviewing the ANA Code of Ethics and finding a solution for one's particular situation is the best way to handle ethical challenges in nursing.

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