

Discussion

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Discussion

Nurses experience different ethical dilemmas in their daily activities in the course of fulfilling their obligations to patients. The Code of Ethics for Nurses provides guidance to the nursing fraternity when they are faced with ethical dilemmas. It outlines the ethical principles that should be followed during care provision, and contains interpretive statements that offer nurses' guidance on their application (Winland-Brown, Lachman, & Swanson, 2015). Moreover, the Code outlines the nurses' responsibility in relation to promoting health and safety, maintaining competence, preserving their wholeness of character and integrity, as well as prioritizing personal and professional growth. The Code of Ethics also highlights the role of nurses in maintaining and improving the ethical and conducive work environment that fosters safe, quality healthcare (Lachman, Sanson, & Winland-Brown, 2015). Markedly, it has captured broader issues rather than narrowly focusing on nursing ethics.

Ethics and morals are commonly interpreted similarly. However, ethics relate to rules that arise from external sources such as professional codes of conduct while morals entail a person's own principles about right and wrong. The concepts are relevant to the role of nurse administrators as they are responsible for promoting key ethical principles and fostering integrity and professionalism in nursing practice (American Nurse Association, 2015). For instance, nurse administrators provide guidance to the nursing staff in relation to ethical concerns that may arise from issues such as protecting patient dignity as guided by the nursing code of ethics. The concept of morals applies to nurse administrators as they are times supposed to determine whether the actions of the nursing staff are right or wrong. For example, a nurse administrator can provide guidance to nurses who violate their boundaries of their nurse-patient relationships by discussing a patient's situation with other colleagues in a casual manner by informing the

nurses that such conduct is wrong (Winland-Brown et al., 2015). The code of ethics for nurses has changed significantly as it currently captures broader issues such as the role of nurses in health promotion, accountability or responsibility for nursing practice, and collaboration with other healthcare professionals, among others.

Question 2: Defining Moments

Right vs. right decision making involves making a choice between two options which are both correct. The key challenge in such scenarios is determining which right thing to do (Badaracco, 1997). For instance, such scenarios may involve a conflict of moral identity and personal integrity. Besides, they may also involve dilemmas resulting from situation where professionals have to fulfill conflicting obligations to self as well as their organizations and clients, yet they must choose one over the others. Right vs. right decisions are usually complex than ethical dilemmas. For instance, as a nurse one may be confronted with a situation whereby a Jehovah Witness patient requires blood transfusion in order to live, yet his religious beliefs do not allow him to accept blood transfusions. In such a scenario, the nurse is torn between transfusing the blood to the patient in order to save his life or respecting his religious beliefs.

I have experienced different moral dilemmas in the course of my career as a nurse. For instance, I handled an end-of-life patient who had particularly indicated that they should not be provided with futile care. However, the patient's family insisted upon the provision of care despite the patient's wishes. I demonstrated my leadership skills by empathizing with the family members and explaining that the care was not benefiting the patient and it was unnecessary. I advised them that the patient would benefit more from palliative care. In another instance, I was involved in an incident whereby an Amish young woman had a life-threatening pregnancy that required to be terminated. Markedly, abortion contravenes their religious beliefs, but as

healthcare professionals we decided to proceed with the abortion despite the protests by the parents. I later explained to them that observing their religious beliefs was vital, but their daughter's life was far important to us as healthcare practitioners.

References

- American Nurses Association. (2015). *Guide to the code of ethics for nurses: Interpretation and application*. Silver Springs, MD: American Nurses Association.
- Badaracco, J.L. (1997). *Defining moments: When managers must choose between right and right*. Boston, MA: Harvard Business School Press.
- Lachman, V. D., Swanson, E. O., & Winland-Brown, J. (2015). The new 'Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements' (2015): Practical clinical application, part II. *Medsurg Nursing*, 24(5), 363-366. Retrieved from <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses/The-New-Code-of-Ethics-for-Nurses-Part-II.pdf>
- Winland-Brown, J., Lachman, V. D., & Swanson, E. O. C. (2015). The new code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements. 2015: Practical clinical application, Part I. *Medsurg Nursing*, 24(4), 268-71. Retrieved from <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses/Code-of-Ethics-2015-Part-1.pdf>