

The Nursing Code of Ethics

Introduction and Scenario

The nursing world faces a variety of ethical dilemmas in everyday practice. They range from issues that directly affect patient to public aspects of their work. There is a need for us to uphold the integrity in the hospital setting. It is because most patients respond to the trustworthiness that they place upon a hospital. In the particular scenario, there is a high profile patient under my jurisdiction, which is apparent from the media coverage of the individual. *The People's* magazine approaches me to serve as an informer. The patient is fast asleep. In fact, they go ahead to offer a substantial amount of money to influence my conveying of information. The circumstance demands that I make a decision whether to reveal information about the patient or to refuse. The paper presents an examination of the decision I will make in reference to the code of ethics' provision.

Code of Ethics Description and Purpose

The ANA Code of Ethics highlights the ethical obligations and duties of nurses towards offering healthcare services (Fowler & American Nurses Association, 2010). There are nine 'provisions' that act as a guideline in defining the nurses' behaviors. They apply to the continuum of nursing care, education and the research. For example, the first provision claims that nurses in all their associations must exercise love and respect towards individuals. It further clarifies that their action should not consider the socio-economic status, personal attributes and the nature of a person's health (American Nurses Association, 2010).

The primary purpose of ANA Code of Ethics is to assist in the process of ethical decision-making. The nature of the nursing profession entails diverse complexities that one must endeavor to encounter. The regulations provide a guideline on the manner a nurse should make the decisions. Every practitioner must, therefore, recognize his/her moral control, in

collaboration with the codes. In other words, every choice must uphold the code of ethics. It acknowledges the autonomy of the nurse in process. However, it emphasizes that one must not compromise the stand at any cost. Consequently, it puts limitations on the extent of choice that one makes. The code also indicates that nurses have an obligation to uphold a moral relationship in their immediate society. In fact, it defines the community perception concerning individuals. The secondary role of guidelines is to enhance professionalism. In essence, it demarcates the certified nurses from the quacks.

Provision Identification

In reference to the scenario, there are four 'provisions' in the code of ethics that will define the decision-making process. The first one emphasizes on the need for health practitioners to respect the inherent dignity and uniqueness of an individual. They should not consider other aspects, such as the social, economic, individuals and health condition (American Nurses Association, 2010). My patient is a high-profile person. However, in spite of his position in the society, he demands that I uphold his dignity at all cost. The second provision also applies. It states that a nurse has a primary commitment to the patient, irrespective of family, community or as an individual (Fowler & American Nurses Association, 2010). In other words, a nurse needs to provide an utmost care to the patient. It applies in the scenario because the high profile personality falls under an individual who is sick.

The third provision affirms that all nurses have the mandate to promote, advocate and strive for the protection of health, safety and rights of patients (American Nurses Association, 2010). The nugget applies to the situation because I am to decide whether to reveal information about the patient or not. The final one is the provision six. It decrees the duty that a nurse has in preserving the integrity of his profession. It is critical because *The People's* magazine wants to offer me some bribe in order to influence my decision.

Guide to Nursing Practice

The provisions are vital in deciding the appropriate steps concerning the issue at hand. First and foremost, I will reflect on the four nuggets. It is apparent that they emphasize on upholding the integrity and the right of the patient. The patient is asleep and I have the opportunity to do whatever I want. After all, I am autonomous. Nevertheless, the first step I will do is disregard any interviews with *The People's* magazine. However, I will take time to explain to them that I have a responsibility to uphold the integrity of my profession. I will not accept bribes. I will inform that every patient has a right to privacy and confidentiality. Only an individual can reveal information that is relevant to the public domain. Consequently, I would emphasize to them the fact that I have no freedom to infringe the right of the patient. I would further give them instruction to wait until the patient wakes up. They will, therefore, have the opportunity to interview the patient. The second nugget commits me to meet the needs of a person in hospital without any consideration

Conclusion

The discussion points out to the significance of the ANA Code of Ethics. They are critical in the decision-making process. For example, the scenario that I find myself in, demands proper choice in regard to how I respond to the magazine. My decision will be based on the basis of provision one, two, three and five of the code of ethics. They emphasize on integrity and esteeming the patients' rights. Utilizing the nuggets assists me not to compromise my core responsibility in the nursing fraternity.