



มหาวิทยาลัยราชภัฏนครปฐม



Fundamental Nursing Practicum

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CHAPTER 10

NURSING PRACTICES ON CODE OF NURSING ETHICS AND PATIENTS' RIGHTS



Objectives

1

Describe the nursing ethical principles

2

Explain Patients' Rights



Code of Nursing Ethics



Nursing ethics is based on moral principles that guide professional behavior and decision-making in patient care.

Ethics (Frequently Occurring Ethical Dilemmas)

- Informed consent
- Refusal of treatment
- Use of scarce resources
- Cost-containment initiatives that negatively affect
- client well-being
- Incompetent health care providers



Core Ethical Principles



PRINCIPLE	EXPLANATION
Autonomy	Respect for an individual's right to self-determination; respect for individual liberty
Nonmaleficence	Obligation to do or cause no harm to another
Beneficence	Duty to do good to others and to maintain a balance between benefits and harms
Justice	Equitable distribution of potential benefits and risks
Veracity	Obligation to tell the truth
Fidelity	Duty to do what one has promised
Delmar/Cengage Learning	

(Sue C. Delaune, Patricia, 2011; Ernstmeyer & Christma, 2021)

Autonomy



Autonomy- Respect the patient's right to make their own healthcare decisions.

Nurses must **respect clients' right** to decide and protect those clients who are unable to decide for themselves. The ethical principle of autonomy reflects the belief that every competent person has the right to determine his or her own course of action. The right to free choice rests on the client's competency to decide.



Beneficence



Beneficence - Act in the best interest of the patient to promote well-being.

For example, when prevention of harm overrides the loss of individual freedom and when an individual's ability to choose is limited by incompetency, paternalism may be justified.



Nonmaleficence



Nonmaleficence - Do no harm; prevent injury or suffering.

Nonmaleficence is considered a fundamental duty of health care providers.

Both nursing's Nightingale Pledge and medicine's Hippocratic Oath state that providers are to cause **no harm to clients**.



Justice

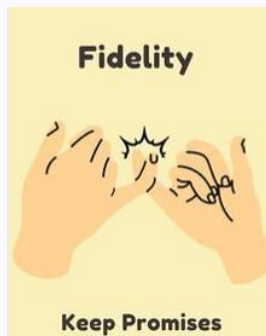


Justice – Treat all patients fairly, without discrimination.

The ethical principle of justice requires that all people be treated equally unless there is a justification for unequal treatment. The material principle of justice is the rationale for determining when unequal allocation of scarce resources is appropriate. This concept specifies that resources should be allocated:



Fidelity



Fidelity – Maintain trust by being honest and keeping commitments.

Fidelity is demonstrated when nurses:

- Represent the client's viewpoint to other members of the health care team
- Avoid letting their own personal values influence their advocacy for clients
- Support the client's decision even when it conflicts with the nurse's preferences or choices



Veracity



Veracity – Be truthful and provide accurate information.

Deception can take many forms:

- intentional lying
- nondisclosure of information
- partial disclosure of information.

Veracity often is difficult to achieve. It may not be difficult to tell the truth, but it is not always easy to decide how much truth to tell.



Confidentiality



Confidentiality – Protect patient information as per HIPAA and legal standards.





Professional Responsibilities in Nursing Ethics



1

Advocacy: Speak up for patients' needs, rights, and best interests.

2

Accountability: Take responsibility for actions and decisions.

3

Collaboration: Work with healthcare teams to ensure holistic care.

4

Cultural Sensitivity: Respect diverse values, beliefs, and backgrounds.



Patients' Rights



Patients have fundamental rights that protect their autonomy, dignity, and safety in healthcare settings. These rights are upheld by organizations such as the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **The Patient's Bill of Rights** in many countries.



Key Patients' Rights



1

Right to Informed Consent

2

Right to Privacy and Confidentiality

3

Right to Respect and Dignity

4

Right to Refuse Treatment

5

Right to Access Healthcare



Key Patients' Rights



6

Right to Pain Management

7

Right to Safety

8

Right to Participate in Care Decisions

9

Right to a Second Opinion

10

Right to File Complaints

Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing and Decision-Making



1. **End-of-Life Decisions:** Honoring do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders while ensuring family support.

Providing Ethical Care

- Initiate dialogue concerning the client's wishes.
- Assess the client's understanding of the illness.
- Allow time for the client to explore values.
- Facilitate communication of the client's desires to family and other health care providers.



Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing and Decision-Making



2. Resource Allocation: Ensuring fair treatment when resources are limited.

3. Informed Consent in Emergencies: Acting in the best interest of unconscious or confused patients.





Conclusion

The **Code of Nursing Ethics** and **Patients' Rights** ensure that nurses provide respectful, safe, and patient-centered care. Upholding these principles fosters trust, professionalism, and high-quality healthcare outcomes.





KEY CONCEPTS

The legal responsibilities of the nurse, defined in practice acts and standards of care, include elements such as providing services to clients and acting as expert witnesses in malpractice suits.

Nurses may witness the signing of a consent form by a client as permitted by institutional policies

In terms of specific client care issues such as abortion, pronouncement of death, DNR orders, euthanasia, care of the deceased, wills, organ donation, and autopsies, **nurses must know and comply with the existing laws and regulations that pertain to these areas in their individual states and provinces of licensure.**



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