



Current Ethical Issues in Medical Technology

William Henry*

Department of Research and Development, University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada

DESCRIPTION

In the twenty-first century, health care is governed by a bewildering set of rules, regulations, laws, and ethical standards. Problems with confidentiality, informed consent, and patient relationships can come out of nowhere, even when health care staffs have the best of intentions. There is always the risk of being sued for negligence or malpractice. Nursing is a fast-paced profession with new issues appearing on a regular basis, and nurse managers around the country face ethical dilemmas that are comparable. There are still unsolved difficulties surrounding doctor aided death, and medical techniques that are regarded ethical for adults may not be considered acceptable for adolescents. Ethics are essential to the nursing profession's integrity because they serve to provide better patient care. Protecting patients' rights, proper personnel, sophisticated decision-making and high-quality patient care are all factors in many of these scenarios. Unfortunately, because there are so many new nurses joining the profession, many of them are unfamiliar with dealing with ethical difficulties. As a result, well-trained nurse managers and CNOs are essential members of the healthcare team to address these challenges.

MAJOR ETHICAL ISSUES IN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Patient confidentiality

Physicians and their patients must maintain a confidential relationship. The medical state of a patient is considered private information. Violating a patient's confidentiality can be harmful to the patient, as well as have legal and ethical ramifications for the health care provider. When it comes to patient privacy and confidentiality, nurses face numerous ethical challenges. This can have legal ramifications and result in serious penalties for

healthcare providers if done incorrectly. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) protect patients' medical information, so there are clear boundaries and procedures for safeguarding their privacy.

Issues related to Physician Assisted Suicide (PAD)

Euthanasia is the process of ending a patient's life intentionally in order to relieve them of pain. It is prohibited in most nations, but it is still a contentious ethical question as to whether or not it should be legalised. Physician assisted dying is already allowed in California and Oregon, according to the majority of health care experts. With the ageing of the baby boom generation, support for PAD is growing. According to surveys, about half of doctors currently support some sort of physician assisted death. Physicians are now expanding the concept of "Do no harm" to include providing relief to those who are dying or suffering from a fatal illness.

Shared patient decision-making

Shared patient decision-making increases patient autonomy by allowing patients and healthcare providers to collaborate to make the best possible decisions about their care. Patients and healthcare professionals can have open discussions regarding a patient's background, values, beliefs, and culture through shared decision-making, resulting in a trusting connection between patient and doctor.

It will be exceedingly difficult for nurses and healthcare workers to get patients to interact and collaborate appropriately if they do not have a relationship. When patients are actively involved in decision-making, they are more likely to be satisfied with their care and accept the doctor's treatment options. Even if the information presented with them is complex, healthcare practitioners should be aware of the need of educating their patients.

Correspondence to: William Henry, Department of Research and Development, University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, E-mail: williamhenry@hsr.edu.ca

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