

Homework Assignments

Critical-Thinking Exercises in Ethics:

1. What data are important in relation to this situation?
Mr. Weems is noncompliant with treatment including medications, weight loss, and smoking cessation. He has also missed follow-up appointments with his HCP.
2. State the ethical dilemma in a clear, simple statement.
The ethical dilemma is whether or not the nurse should continue to use her time/resources to make home health visits when Mr. Weems is clearly noncompliant, as evidenced by his failure to take prescribed medications, lose weight, quit smoking, and attend appointments with his HCP.
3. What are the choices of action, and how do they relate to specific **ethical principles**?
The choices of action would be for the nurse to either continue making home health visits or to spend her time helping other patients who may be more compliant.
The ethical principles that apply to this situation are:
Autonomy- the pt's right make his own decisions even if they are not what is best for him.
Justice- nurse's obligation to use fairness in providing care especially in regards to time and resources.
Beneficence- considering the pt's best interest regardless of the nurse's personal opinion.
4. What are consequences of these actions?
If the nurse stopped making visits to see Mr. Weems, his health conditions could worsen, and he may have to be hospitalized for treatment. He may even pass away or suffer extreme consequences such as stroke or lung cancer. On the other hand, the nurse would have more time to provide care to pts she otherwise would not have the time to help.
5. What decisions can be made?
The nurse could continue making home health visits to see Mr. Weems. She could continue providing support and education to help him make healthy lifestyle changes. The nurse could ask questions to find out if there is a reason Mr. Weems is noncompliant. Perhaps he cannot afford his medications, does not have transportation to attend his appointments, or does not have the information needed to pursue weight loss. If this was the case, the nurse could connect the pt with resources to help with medications and transportation, and she could provide education on practical ways to begin the weight loss journey.

Chapter 3 Ethical Responsibilities:

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. D
5. C

Chapter 4 Legal Responsibilities:

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. A & B
5. C

Chapter 7 Nursing Process:

1. A
2. A
3. A, D, & E
4. C, D, & E
5. A