

Katelyn Howard
ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses

Provide 1-2 page reflection based on a current ethical issue related to nursing (at least 250 words) The reflection must address one of the ANA code of Ethics for Nurses. Provide at least one evidence based resource (other than your textbook)

A current ethical issue related to Nursing that has been going on for some time now is the Covid 19 ethical issues for nurses. Nurses and other health care providers were being praised for putting themselves in the front lines against the Covid 19 pandemic. As time went on through the pandemic we were hearing about the insufficient resources to deliver safe care to patients with some of them being lack of PPE and limited testing. With the lack of these things, they would go to work without the safeguards and put themselves, their patients and their families at risk for contracting the virus. They could also make the choice to stay home even though their severely ill patients needed them on duty. The principles of nonmaleficence and beneficence apply (McKenna, 2020).

In march of 2020, a New York doctor took her own life after the experiences of dealing with COVID-19 patients in the emergency room. There are other issues that arise with the pandemic, one of them being justice. We have to be fair in how patients are treated. There was a shortage of beds in the ICU and ventilators. So when it comes to justice, what determines who gets the lifesaving access to treatment and who doesn't?

The pandemic affects not only physical well-being, but also mental and social well being. COVID 19 ethical issues such as autonomy took place as well. We were restricted of our autonomy by the quarantine requirements, closed borders and masks even if we did not like the idea of it. Trust took place as well because our patients trusted us to make the best possible choices because they had trust in us such as having the appropriate available treatment.

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During the pandemic the nurses still practiced with compassion and respect, they were committed to their patients, advocated for them, made decisions to promote health, protected human rights and maintained integrity of the profession all which apply to the ANA code of ethics for nurses. In conclusion, I believe that that all nurses carried out all of their nursing responsibility to the best of their ability while dealing with the pandemic! I also believe some health care providers that worked through the pandemic still have strong feelings how they were praised at first and now things are somewhat back to normal.

Reference:

McKenna H. (2020). Covid-19: Ethical issues for nurses. *International journal of nursing studies*, 110, 103673. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2020.103673>