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An ethical issue that is present in nursing today is the staff shortages that the profession is plagued with. Nursing is a hard profession and often nurses can become burnt out. Along with this staffing shortages can require a nurse to take on more patients for one shift. This can lead to mistakes and decreased patient safety. The ethical issue of staff shortages coincides with the issue of medication errors and the lack of reporting. The ANA code for ethics statement 4 states that the nurse has authority, accountability and responsibility for nursing practice. While medication errors are mistakes nurse have become scared to report errors for the fear of the consequence that may come along with admitting wrong doing. This comes from the fear of previous nurse punishments that include loss of license and even imprisonment. While not all medication errors are fatal it is still the nurses responsibility to report in order to prevent the error from occurring again. Further patient harm can be prevented by the nurse taking responsibility and holding themselves accountable by reporting their wrong doing even if it was an accident. Hospital promoting accountability and realizing that humans are just humans and make mistakes could help to increase medication error reporting in the work place. Not all medication errors are a result of human error. Some of these errors occur due to nurses being overwhelmed by their patient load. If more nurses were available to decrease the workload and patient load for nurses the errors could decrease to only being caused by human error. The need for nurses is an ongoing need that must be filled in order to provide better and safer patient care.

Rogers, E., Griffin, E., Carnie, W., Melucci, J., & Weber, R. J. (2017). A Just Culture Approach to Managing Medication Errors. *Hospital pharmacy*, 52(4), 308–315.
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