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Ethical Issues Related to Nursing

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is a professional organization used to protect and advance the practice of nursing. The ANA has nine provisions to ensure that views of nursing are amplified, and that proper education is followed, these are called *The Code of Ethics*.

Covid has followed us all for the past 3 years, affecting us all emotionally and physically, especially those who work in healthcare. Nurses are the forefront of caring for those who are sick and when covid surfaced ethical issues reignited as well. Over the years nurses are faced with wide varieties of illnesses or diseases which puts nurses at high risk of developing that illness or disease themselves such as Ebola, Swine Flu, HIV/AIDS, and now Covid. During covid the safety of nurses was the least priority of healthcare organizations. One of the principles of *The Code of Ethics* stipulates that nurses have a duty to promote their own health and safety. These multiple and even competing duties, especially as they combine or conflict with civic and personal interests, place nurses—many of whom have conditions that make them more vulnerable to Covid—in a quandary (Morley et al. 2020). During this time, one of the biggest issues in nursing ethics was personal protective equipment. The overwhelming undersupply and vast need of personal protective equipment during this time hit healthcare professionals hard. The concerns for transmitting, and health for those whom nurses encountered became a great deal for those who were working in close contact with Covid patients. Nurses' concerns about personal protective equipment may arise not just because of concerns for personal safety but also because of concerns about transmitting Covid-19 to loved ones, especially those who have medical conditions that make them particularly vulnerable, or because they may be the sole support for and carer of children or dependent adult relatives. (Morley et al. 2020).

The Code of Ethics ensures nurses and patients are both taken care of. In Covid it became greatly important to recognize that there are ethical issues everywhere and that it is valuable to know the code of ethics to ensure patients and you as a nurse are equally being taken care of.

Morley G, Grady C, McCarthy J, Ulrich CM. Covid-19: Ethical Challenges for Nurses. *Hastings Cent Rep.* 2020 May;50(3):35-39. doi: 10.1002/hast.1110. Epub 2020 May 14. PMID: 32410225; PMCID: PMC7272859.

