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Z Chapter-19 Ethical Issues

A current ethical issue related to nursing would be incompetence among nursing peers. It can be difficult to report a coworker for behavioral issues with care. Coworkers often become close friends and you would never want to get them into trouble. Although, it is very important that you do report nurses who are incompetent in providing care. Especially because it's something that puts the patient's safety at risk. The ANA Code of Ethics for nurses' states "The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality healthcare." This is stated in the code of ethics because it is very important. Reporting this behavior can keep patients from harm and possibly save them from terrible consequences or unreasonable pain.

As a nurse we are ultimately responsible for reporting things that are unsafe. On the flip side of that, not saying anything at all also puts you at risk for potentially losing your position or being brought to court. "As a nurse you have a duty to report an incident about which you have firsthand knowledge. Failure to do so could lead to termination. It could also expose you to liability, especially in cases of patient injury". (NSO, 2023) In order to protect yourself it is very important to report incidents and unexpected events.

To put this ethical dilemma in perspective, It is important to report any misbehavior or incidents. Even if it is your best friend or colleague, you must remember the patient's safety is

above all. Being a nurse is having a commitment to care for others in a safe environment to promote their healing, not cause harm.

Resources:

*Are you filing incident reports properly?* NSO. (n.d.). Retrieved March 1, 2023, from <https://www.nso.com/Learning/Artifacts/Articles/Are-You-Filing-Incident-Reports-Properly#:~:text=As%20a%20nurse%2C%20you%20have,reports%20anytime%20unexpected%20events%20occur.>