

After exploring the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses and doing some research, I chose to write about the third code of ethics, which states, “The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.” The ethical dilemma I chose is about parental refusal of vaccines for their children. This is a growing concern for the increased occurrence of vaccine preventable diseases in children and there are multiple reasons of why the parents are refusing. According to PubMed Central, “Physician perceptions on the reasons as to why parents/guardians refuse vaccinations also were measured, and the most common response was that parents possess a fear of long-term complications for their children as a result of vaccines (74%). Additionally, the three most commonly refused vaccines were HPV, influenza, and measles, mumps, and rubella” (2020). This becomes an ethical dilemma, as even through research, finding what may be the right or wrong answer may seem impossible. Although it is ultimately the legal guardian/parent’s responsibility and say to make the decision on whether to vaccinate their child or not, it could affect the child down the road in a positive or negative way. If the parent chooses not to vaccinate their children, and the child happens to contract one of the diseases down the road, it may have been avoided or had lessened symptoms if vaccinated. On the other hand, it is the parent’s right to make the call as it may be a part of their cultural, religious, or personal beliefs, and the child and their legal guardian, if the child is not able to make the decision for themselves at that age, have the right to refuse any vaccines. This relates to the code of ethics I chose as through research and scholarly inquiry, advances in the nursing profession can be made and evidence-based practice can be used to advance a nurses knowledge on the legal and ethical side of nursing.

Reference:

K;, M. K. N. (2020). *Kansas family physicians perceptions of parental vaccination hesitancy*. Kansas journal of medicine. Retrieved March 1, 2023, from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33173560/>