

The ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses I decided to base my paper off of is the fifth one, “The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health, and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.” This code of ethics is describing that all nurses, must acknowledge their responsibility as a healthcare member that they have to promote good healthcare, and safety, and keep up on their skills, as well as knowledge. By keeping up on their skills and knowledge they are practicing safety as new evidence-based practice come out after completion of receiving their nursing license. As a nurse you want to maintain competence to provide best care to your patients.

The article I chose to relate to the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses I chose above is related to Covid-19. The article talks about the difficult ethical issues that has come up once Covid-19 was established. The first ethical issue that they discuss is that nurses, along with many other healthcare members are putting themselves at risk to the exposure of Covid-19 while trying to take care of their patients to the best ability they can all while, at the time not knowing a lot of information about it. This is going against the code of ethics, as the *code of ethics* also stipulates that nurses have a duty to promote their own health and safety. (*Covid-19: Ethical challenges for nurse.*, 2023) One can even argue is it ethically acceptable to not only put their own safety, and health at risk but their families they go home to daily, especially children. When the decision is made on if they want to get the vaccine or not, this is usually questioning if they want their children to get it as well. Being vaccinated helps you fight off the virus so you aren't getting it. This virus can travel on clothing, shoes, watches, phones, pens, etc. so, anything they take home that they had at the hospital may carry that virus that they are protected from but if they don't have their children get vaccinated as well, they won't be protected from that. This virus is very easy to spread and for children they are at risk due to their immune system not being as strong as an adult would have.

Another ethical issue this article brings up is that as nurses, we were faced with difficult decisions to make regarding our healthcare choice with scarce resources. Many nurses, and healthcare workers across the board were faced with the difficult decision on either receiving the Covid-19 vaccine, or to be terminated from their employer. With some leniency, they made it acceptable to those who have health conditions, or religious beliefs so they did not have to receive it. For those that did not have any contraindications it was a difficult situation to be in because they have to think about the future, their families, bills, groceries, etc. Without the job they had they may not be able to financially function which puts them at no choice but to receive the vaccination, even if they don't agree with it, or want it for the sake of their living. Some may argue that they are not ethically protecting themselves, and their rights.

This article briefly talks about nursing shortage that we have experienced significantly after the Covid-19 pandemic. Many think it's because of this pandemic from the stress, and the requirements they were making the employees do were making the nurses retire early, or leave. With this pandemic a lot of people were second guessing if they want to continue to be in healthcare, or to finish school to go in it. On top of this, this results in the current nurses being over worked and they get burnt out quickly and will want to quit, and many feel as though the pay does not meet the expectations they want during this time. Pay is not the most important thing in a career to focus on but when you are dealing with the stress, new requirement's some

are taking a step back to figure out if it is worth their mental health with a lot of people have dealt with more during this time.

#### References:

*Covid-19: Ethical challenges for nurses - wiley online library.* (n.d.). Retrieved March 2, 2023, from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hast.1110>