

The ANA code of ethics for nursing has many different standards that we as nurses should follow. One that I am going to talk about is Provision 4, "The nurses have authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; make decisions; and take actions consistent with the obligation to provide optimal patient care." An article that I found talks about ethical dilemmas that they face the most often and one is, work overload affecting quality. I think we have all learned if not witnessed the amount of work a nurse is expected to do, especially if short-staffed. Nurses are handed a lot of work and even take care of multiple patients who need extensive care. Not only is this amount of work unsafe for the nurse, but it is also unsafe for the patients. Having a nurse take on this much responsibility with so many patients can affect their quality of care. There are so many interventions and assessments that must be done in a timely manner, some patients may even require more. All these patients and interventions can prevent the nurse from checking on another patient in a timely manner as we are expected to do. The workload that nurses have been getting since COVID-19 has increased and is making the nurses burn out and leave the field. Not only do you care for all of these patients, but you also have to document for all of these patients and all the interventions that were performed for these patients. When overloading work, you may rush to document and make an error and we all know that documentation is very important, essentially it comes back to us and reflects how we take care of our patients.