

Taylor Whitworth

Z-CH 19

As nurses, we will be faced with many different experiences that are connected to morals and ethical values. We will be faced with many different ethical issues and dilemmas throughout our careers and it is up to us to do the right thing whether that's for our patients or ourselves. There is a code of ethics that nurses are expected to follow and carry out day to day. The code of ethics consists of 9 different provisions, the provision I would like to talk about would be provision 2. Provision 2 states "Nurses' primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population". This to me means that when the patient's wishes go against others' interests (physician or family) we must advocate and resolve any issues to get everyone on board to honor the patient's wishes. Our commitment here is to the patient not to anyone else.

An example of this dilemma would be a patient who is being treated for cancer and just recently found out that treatment is no longer working and there is nothing else that could be done. They are in the works of getting the patient back home to their family and can provide medication to aid in the patient's comfort for the remaining time they have left. The patient states that they aren't interested in taking the medication because the side effects make them drowsy and would rather spend this time alert with family. The family tells the nurse to administer the medication without the patient's knowledge because they know the patient is in pain and they would like

them to be comfortable. This situation is very difficult because family members truly do not want to see the patient in pain and want to do everything they can. As we know in this situation the right thing to do would be to respect the patient's wishes and not administer the medication. We can provide education and support to both the patient and the family at this time but in the end, again our commitment to the patient and doing exactly what they ask of us.

Reference:

Pacific College. (2022, May 31). *Common examples of ethical dilemmas in nursing*. Pacific College. <https://www.pacific-college.edu/blog/ethical-dilemma-in-nursing>