

ANA ethics

Inadequate staffing

ANA code of ethics for nurse's bullet number four states that "The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care. However, an ethical issue that nurses often face in the workplace is inadequate staffing. Because of inadequate staffing nurses are given more patients and can't provide them all with the best quality of care possible. This is when shortcuts are often done to make sure all patients are seen while minimizing the quality of their care. Nurses know that they still have a job, and they want to promote patient outcomes and improve their overall health, but when given more patients than reasonable the quality of healthcare goes down. Overall, it is important for nurses to ask for help when needed and address their concerns with management. This could be simply because management is unaware that the nurses aren't providing the best care. They might think the nurses are able to handle the patient load and didn't think to hire more staff. Communicating with management makes a big difference. If communication was made and hiring of staff is simply just a way for them to cut costs, then moving up the chain of command and finding ways to resolve this issue would be ideal. Moving forward call offs can also shorten the nurse-patient ratio and can make things worse. The staff should work together and come up with a plan for what they can do when they are short-staffed to make the ratios safe and to provide the best possible patient care. The Code of ethics for Nurses also states that it is up to the nurses to also provide best patient care by holding themselves accountable and not calling off, helping to ensure safe patient ratios (2017).

Code of ethics for Nurses (2017) ANA. Available at:

<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/> (Accessed: 27 February 2024).