

Z – Chapter 19 Assignment

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A current ethical issue is honesty vs. withholding information from the patient due to the family not wanting to hurt their feelings or make them feel worse about their diagnosis. This goes against the ANA Code of Ethics, “The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient (*Code of Ethics for Nurses*, 2017).” It is very important to educate the family on why it is important to not keep any information private from the patient because it is their health that is compromised. No one wants to hear that they have a bad diagnosis but sadly, it is reality, and they need to be informed so they can make decisions about their healthcare. We as nurses also must provide veracity to the patient which is providing the facts and truth about their diagnosis. We will provide all the information along with their HCP to help them make informed and educated decisions instead of their family deciding for them. The only case where this may be different is if the child is too young to understand fully, but in my opinion if they are old enough to understand the concept of their diagnosis, they should be informed. If they are not informed, they will be wondering why they are getting labs done and going to the hospital all the time. Overall, all nurses should respect the patient and be their advocate and let them know all the details that they have the right to know; if this is not done then it could possibly cause harm to the patient. For example, if the patient does not know their diagnosis is poor and their family does and the family wants them to be a full code and the patient wants to be a DNR, that is a big difference and needs to be addressed per patients wishes as long as the patient is competent.

Code of Ethics for nurses. (2017, October 26). ANA. <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/>

