

## Z Chapter 19 Assignment- Nursing Ethical Issue

I believe that one of the biggest ethical issues nurses face today is caring for female patients after Roe v. Wade was overturned. Although this ruling had more than just topics of abortions, this is still the main topic of discussion when brought up. Women across the United States now struggle more to get reproductive healthcare, and decisions about their care are not only between themselves and their physician. The government has regulations set now to where they are the main decision maker. The American Nurses Association stated, “Nurses have an ethical obligation to safeguard the right to privacy for individuals, families, and communities, allowing for decision making that is based on full information without coercion. As the largest group of healthcare professionals, nurses have for decades assisted their patients with weighing the benefits, burdens, and available options, including the choice of no treatment, when discussing sexual health issues and pregnancy” (*US Supreme Court’s Decision*, 2022). There are some people who feel that having an abortion is an easy process for the patient to go through, when this is not the case. This is a very difficult process for the patient and their family, and the decision is not made lightly. As the American Nurses Association explained, nurses are there with the patients going over every option with the patient and providing as much information as possible so they can make the decision that is right for them. Nurses went into this field to care for people, and watching decisions being taken away from the people we are supposed to help is very distressing. Now that this precedent has been overturned, it has opened doors for other legislative bodies to propose new, more intense ideas to further limit women’s ability to receive quality care. Even though there are now numerous restrictions on abortions (even those medically necessary), this does not mean that some women will not try other methods. Unsafe abortions that are performed by unlicensed individuals increase infection and mortality rate and will not perform the procedure properly. As nurses, all we want to do is care for others during

times where they need it. Nurses face an ethical dilemma when it comes to this topic, as we want to be able to help our patients however we can. It becomes difficult to do so when regulations are put in place that impair our ability to provide thorough education and give patients the care they need during this very sensitive time.

Reference:

*US Supreme Court's Decision to Overturn Roe vs. Wade: Is a Serious Setback for Reproductive*

*Health and Human Rights.* (2022, June 24).

ANA. <https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2022-news-releases/us-supreme-courts-decision-to-overturn-roe-vs.-wade---is-a-serious-setback-for-reproductive-health-and-human-rights/>