

Jaden Ward

Ethical issue of violence against nurses

Healthcare workers have been dealing with this problem of violence for a while and it has got a lot worse since the pandemic. Workplace violence can include physical, psychological, or verbal abuse. “While violence affects workers in all occupations, it is thought to be especially prevalent in the health care sector due to long hours, shift work, frequent contact with death and the lack of human resources, material, and equipment (National library of Medicine,2021). This is an ethical issue in nursing because nurses need to follow the code of ethics with caring for the patients but when violence happens is it ethical for the nurse to refuse the care of the patient over their own safety. One code of ethics nurses has to follow is “The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person” (ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses). As a nurse follows this code would it be breaking this if the nurse refused care of a patient for the safety of his or herself. As this is happening in all hospitals, workplace violence is contributing to the extreme nursing shortages we are facing. Workplace violence has detrimental effects including temporary or permanent disabilities, avoiding work, post-traumatic stress disorder, increased job stress, and burnout. Nurses should not feel unsafe going to work each day wondering if today's the day a patient act violently to them. Nurses have a responsibility to take care of all patients but at what point do nurses need to protect themselves first over the patient.

Resource:

*Workplace violence among nursing professionals*. (2021, February 11). National Library of Medicine. Retrieved February 29, 2024, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7879475/>