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ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses

Z- Ch. 19

An ethical dilemma in nursing is telling the patient vs. being deceptive. For example, a patient's family is requesting for the nurse to not disclose their medical condition to the patient. The nurse knows what is right and that the patient has right to know what is medically going on with them. Also, you never know if the family is telling the truth to you about not disclosing their condition to them. The nurse also knows that they have an obligation to the patient and an ethical principle to uphold of nonmaleficence and fidelity by preventing harm and the obligation to be faithful to your coworkers (Wood, 2023). At the end of the day regardless of who you are, and how you feel a patient and their family will always want to know the truth about their medical condition/illness whether it be good news or bad.

The nursing Code of Ethics requires nurses to uphold their nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health (American Nurses Foundation, 2017). The ethical code ties into the dilemma explained above in that one must stay true to the nursing profession to create the better good for oneself and the community and by doing this you must act in a professional way, be honest, and provide quality patient centered care. The community places a lot of trust in the nursing profession for a good reason so could you imagine how you would feel if someone kept your medical information from you or lied to you about your condition. Another code of ethics this could tie into is promoting, advocating, and protecting rights, health, and safety of the patient.

Resources:

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

Wood, D. (2023, November 16). *Nursing ethics: 4 common ethical dilemmas: Amn healthcare*.
Nursing Ethics: 4 Common Ethical Dilemmas | AMN Healthcare.
<https://www.amnhealthcare.com/blog/nursing/contract/4-common-nursing-ethics-dilemmas/>