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Legal and Ethical issues
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Nurses face many challenges each day and some of them are legal and ethical issues. One ethical and legal issue that is huge in nursing is that “The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to provide optimal patient care” (Haddad LM, Geiger RA, 2023). As a nurse, you should be making decisions on how to treat your patients to get them back to their optimal health. In some cases, we must make quick decisions to help save a patient or help them from getting progressively worse. Nurses must be held accountable for the actions they take in helping these patients. Sometimes mistakes are made, but taking action and reporting these mistakes is essential for patient safety. One example would be giving the wrong medication to a patient. The nurse should call the doctor and report the incident. When an error happens this also means filling out a report stating what happened, what you gave, and to whom. The nurse should also tell the patient about the error and the potential side effects of this medication.

The quotes above also go into detail providing optimal care and decision making as stated before. In doing these things as a nurse we have to make sure we are competent in our care. An example would be keeping up with the necessary policies and procedures in the facility where you work. Another example could also be keeping up with evidence-based practices in Nursing. Going to a new education is essential so you can be more knowledgeable in areas to help provide safe competent care. Having an education is the most important part of helping prevent errors or even legal and ethical issues from happening.

References

Haddad LM, Geiger RA. Nursing Ethical Considerations. [Updated 2023 Aug 14]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2024 Jan-. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK526054