

Z-CH 19 Assignment

One ethical issue related to nursing that I have seen is maintaining confidentiality of patients. Throughout clinical, there have been times where other nurses who do not have that patient read through their charts to get information on them. One of the ANA code of ethics states that nurses, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care. Like the code of ethics says, nurses should improve the ethical environment, and going through patient's charts and personal information when they are not your patient is an unethical thing to do. I believe that sharing patient information with people who do not need it violates the ethical principle of autonomy. The patient should be able to decide who their information is shared with, not the nurse, unless it is being shared with someone who is also working directly with that patient. According to AMA Journal of Ethics, "Respect for autonomy includes respect for a patient's right to decide with whom to share his or her personal information. *AMA Code of Ethics* Opinion 5.05 appeals to this consideration by treating disclosures to which the patient has expressly consented differently than disclosures without patient endorsement [6]. Related to respect for autonomy is the more encompassing principle of respect for persons, which entails recognition of and sensitivity to patient vulnerability, efforts to preserve and restore patient dignity, and protection of patients from exploitation" (Majumder, 2016). This shows that sharing personal information on a patient with someone who isn't involved in their care directly violates autonomy for the patient as well as one of our duties as nurses.

Reference:

Majumder, M. A., & Guerrini, C. J. (2016, March 1). *Federal Privacy Protections: Ethical Foundations, sources of confusion in clinical medicine, and controversies in biomedical research*. Journal of Ethics | American Medical Association. <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/federal-privacy-protections-ethical-foundations-sources-confusion-clinical-medicine-and/2016-03#:~:text=Respect%20for%20autonomy%20and%20for,protection%20of%20patients%20from%20exploitation.>