

Z Chapter 19 Online Assignment

I am going to write about a current ethical issue that took place on February 18, 2025 at Palms West Hospital in Palm Beach, Florida. A man is currently facing an attempted murder charges after attacking a nurse while she was caring for him. The man came into the hospital for a mental evaluation. While the nurse was caring for this man, he allegedly had broken every bone in the nurse's face, and additionally the nurse would likely lose both of her eyes. The nurse was 67 years old and was very close to retirement. This situation is currently making headlines all over the news and social media. The nurses in this country are fighting for safer patient ratios, and safer work environments, and a movement to "end nurse abuse." If you punch a cop, you're arrested; you punch a school bus driver, you're arrested; you punch a bartender, you're arrested. Nurses are told "you signed up for the job" however nurses took an oath to care for patients. Nurses shouldn't have to feel unsafe going into work to care of loved ones. "Violence against nurses has been a pandemic. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "between 8 and 38% of nurses suffer from health-care violence at some point of their career" [1]. Compared to other workplaces, health care workers have a higher risk of getting physically, sexually, or psychologically injured. Incidents where staff is abused, threatened, or assaulted in the circumstances related to their work, including commuting to and from work, involving an explicit or implicit challenge to their safety, well-being, or health are Workplace Violence (WPV)."

Kafle S, Paudel S, Thapaliya A, Acharya R. Workplace violence against nurses: a narrative review. *J Clin Transl Res.* 2022 Sep 13;8(5):421-424. PMID: 36212701; PMCID: PMC9536186. [Workplace violence against nurses: a narrative review - PMC](#)

A reflection from ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses statements is "the nurse, 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." I chose this code because taking an assignment as nurse can be harmful to the nurse and the patient. Individuals go to nursing school to become a nurse with high hopes and dreams of taking care of many sick patients. Nursing is such a respectable career that many individuals dedicate their lives to. I hope with this situation, an emergency room physician stabbed in the chest; two staff members injured, an ER nurse in NC sustained a fractured leg following an attack by a patient, and also a police killed & 5 others wounded and an ICU nurse held hostage inside the hospital by zip ties. I hope in the future the health and wellness of nurses are taken more seriously. Nurses are here to help sick people.

An ethical principle that fits this scenario is beneficence. The nurse was doing her duty to do good for patients but however, was seriously injured.