

In recent months, there has been more awareness of patient-nurse violence. Nurses have a code of ethics that requires them to avoid harming patients. Nonmaleficence is the duty to avoid harming a patient, intentionally or unintentionally. The problem with this is that it doesn't go both ways. Patients are allowed to attack, punch, spit, and kick the staff, but the staff aren't allowed to defend themselves against them. Workplace violence is directly related to decreasing job satisfaction, burnout, humiliation, guilt, emotional stress, intention to quit a job, and increased staff turnover." (Kafle, P etc. 2022)

There was a patient just this week who attacked a nurse in Palm Beach, Florida. A 33-year-old man, under the Baker Act, attacked the nurse with scissors. That nurse is currently in the ICU. The Baker Act is a temporary hold on a patient who is a threat to themselves or others. On the 911 call, The dispatcher asked if the nurse was unconscious and bleeding. The manager said, "Yeah, unconscious. I'm not worried about that part but about the Baker Act." The hospital did nothing to help that nurse.

Provision 1 of the ANA Code of Ethics of Nurses states that nurses must practice with compassion and respect for every individual's inherent dignity, worth, and uniqueness. This tells us the importance of treating all patients with kindness, respect, and understanding. A nurse can show our patients love, compassion, and dignity, but our patients don't show the same respect as us. The hospitals say that's part of the job, or the patient may be confused.

I had a similar experience at Fisher Titus. A patient was pink-slipped and waiting for transport to 1 South, but one South was full, so we took him to the floor. The patient pushed the PCT on the floor, trying to leave the room. Then broke a picture frame in the hallway and started running with the glass, trying to stab the nurses and PCTs. The police were called, and the man was taken to jail.

The code of ethics is great because it protects the patients, but it doesn't protect the nurses from the patients. There is no 'Act or code" that makes the patients accountable for their actions. I know you are thinking, well, the patient may be confused. I don't care. You believe that a nurse who is now blind cares that the patient is confused. When that patient wakes up, he needs to be changed for what he did.

Then, everyone talks about the nursing shortage. There are many nurses; we just aren't at the bedside. We see what is happening on TV and don't feel like getting attacked and can't fight back. If we fight back, we can lose our license.

Nurses will always love and care for our patients. We made a promise to do no harm to our patients and show compassion.

Kafle, S., Paudel, S., Thapaliya, A., & Acharya, R. (2022). Workplace violence against nurses: a narrative review. *Journal of clinical and translational research*, 8(5), 421–424.