

One current ethical issue in nursing today would be advance directive planning and DNR orders. We, as nurses, have the ethical principle of beneficence where we have the duty to actively do good for our patients. Many times that duty involves making sure our patient is comfortable at the end of their life and encouraging changing a code status if we feel like this patient could not go through resuscitation. Healthcare workers have run into problems when a family doesn't want to change the code status of their family member who is actively dying or nothing else can be done. It's extremely difficult for the family and the nurse can help them make their decision, but ultimately it is up to the family or patient (if able to answer). "Palliative care may frequently be presented as an option, but ultimately the patient, family, or surrogate must finalize the decision (Gamboa, 2024)." It is our duty, as nurses, to make sure a family is well-informed about their loved one's status, so that they can make a decision for the care in the future. One of the code of ethics that we hit with this situation, would be the nurse promoting, advocating for, and protecting the rights, health and safety of the patient. This would be because we are advocating for our patient's right to leave the world with dignity and not make them suffer with intubating, CPR, and defibrillation if we think the patient doesn't have a strong chance of making it or a good quality of life afterwards.

Reference:

Bsn, A. G. R. (2024, January 19). *Common ethical issues in nursing practice*. NursingEducation. <https://nursingeducation.org/blog/common-ethical-issues-in-nursing-practice/>