

A current ethical issue related to nursing is Physician Assisted Suicide. This topic has been up for debate for quite some time in the Health Care system. Some physicians believe that the only way to relieve intractable pain and suffering in the chronically and terminally ill is death. However, the debate continues among the differing views between the physicians and the public. This is an ethical issue because in the textbook it states, “The American Medical Association opposes PAS because it violates the most basic ethical principle, which is “First, do no harm” (Zerwekh, 2023). In other words, PAS violates the Moral and Ethical Principle known as “Nonmaleficence.” This issue affects nursing practice as it may involve the nurse. The physician may order a lethal dose of a medication for the nurse to administer. Because of this, it is crucial for nurses to be aware of the legal and ethical implications that can arise from such an order. It is illegal to administer a lethal dose with the intent of ending the patient’s life. The Health Care Professional who is responsible for this action can be charged with homicide. Various groups are exploring ways to “do no harm” to chronically and terminally ill patients, while also honoring their lives and wishes. I think the most fitting ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses that relates to this topic most is the second principal element known as “Nurses and Practice.” This principal outlines several standards of ethical conduct that pertains to this principal. The standard that is most relevant to this issue from the textbook reads “Nurses are active participants in the promotion of patient safety. They promote ethical conduct when errors or near misses occur, speak up when patient safety is threatened, advocate for transparency, and work with others to reduce the potential of errors” (Zerwekh, 2023). This article states “End-of-life care will continue to be a subject of debate due to the struggle between biomedical principles, the different existing legal frameworks, and the general population's beliefs” (Picón-Jaimes et al., 2022). It is important to note that the ANA issued a statement in 2013 prohibiting nurses from participating in any form of death.

Zerwekh, J. G., & Garneau, A. Z. (2023). *Nursing today: Transitions and trends*. Elsevier.

Picón-Jaimes, Yelson Alejandroa; Lozada-Martinez, Ivan Davida,b; Orozco-Chinome, Javier Estebanc; Montaña-Gómez, Lina Mariád; Bolaño-Romero, María Paza,b; Moscote-Salazar, Luis Rafaele; Janjua, Tariqf; Rahman, Sabrinag,* . Euthanasia and assisted suicide: An in-depth review of relevant historical aspects. *Annals of Medicine & Surgery* 75(0);, March 2022. | DOI: 10.1016/j.amsu.2022.103380