

Ethical Challenge for Nurses

An ethical dilemma that is current in nursing is the increasing number of workplace injuries nurses face during their shifts. Nurses often lift heavy patients, work long hours, and handle violent or aggressive individuals, putting them at risk of harm. Despite their dedication to patient care, many struggle with poor workplace protections and little support from hospital administrations. According to Provision 3 of the ANA Code of Ethics, "*The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.*" (Haddad, 2023). While this mainly focuses on patient safety, it also suggests that nurses should advocate for their own well-being. The dilemma arises when nurses feel they must continue working in unsafe conditions. For instance, staffing shortages force nurses to overwork, increasing their chances of injury. Many also experience workplace violence, including verbal and physical abuse from patients or visitors, yet feel pressure to tolerate it to avoid disrupting care. This situation raises ethical concerns about hospitals' responsibility to protect their employees while maintaining quality care. The healthcare system must push for safer work environments, injury prevention, and support systems for harmed nurses. Addressing this issue means balancing patient care with nurse safety, highlighting the need for workplace improvements and ethical awareness to create a safer healthcare setting.

Work Cited

Haddad, L. M. (2023, August 14). *Nursing ethical considerations*. StatPearls [Internet].

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK526054/>