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Code of Ethics for Nurses – The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health and safety of the patient.

It is essential that a nurse advocates for the needs of their patient especially when they are unable to do so (Anderson, 2023). As example a patient that is unconscious and said to never wake up again and the family have the patient remain a full code. The family does not come and see the family member and refuse to intervene in their treatment it is essential to contact an ethics committee. An ethics committee will weight the pros and cons of the patient remaining on life support and determine if it is nonhumane to keep the patient on life support. It is also very important to ensure the patient knows and understands their rights and ensure they are not violated. It is essential that the patient knows they have the right to refuse, informed consent, respect, access to care and nondiscrimination. To many times patients are not provided essential education regarding procedures, reason for testing, medications and other interventions. Patients also feel at times their right to refuse is ignored and physicians will push interventions, medications even though they say they don't agree or unsure of the physician's orders. Promoting and ensuring a patient safety such as preventing falls is essential. Implementing fall precautions such as bed and chair alarms to allow for fast response times and to be aware when a patient is trying to ambulate by themselves when they are unable to do so. Preventing spread of disease by following hand hygiene to ensure no spread of bacteria and diseases from patient to patient. Nurses must also advocate for essential interventions for patient's especially when they believe the ordered intervention is not sufficient. When patients complain of pain but the physician continues to ignore requests or not put in sufficient medications for the patient it is important to voice your concerns to have the proper interventions implemented. Another important scenario is if a patient is suffering from retention, and the physician is continuously ordering for straight caths which multiple catheterizations can easily put the patient at increased risk of introduced bacteria causing UTI or develop urethral trauma from multiple catheterizations. It would be best to request a foley catheter to be placed to limit the risk of the introduction of bacteria and limit trauma to the urethra.

References

- Anderson, J. (2023, October 5). *5 ways to advocate for your patients: Amn Healthcare*. 5 Ways To Advocate for Your Patients | AMN Healthcare.
<https://www.amnhealthcare.com/blog/nursing/travel/patient-advocacy-5-ways-to-advocate-for-your-patients/>