

--Discuss a legal or ethical issue that is going on in the arena of Mental Health nursing.

1) Identify a nursing journal article related to the issue

This article is on "Legal aspects of psychiatric nursing." Psychiatric nurses are held accountable to practice according to current laws and standards. This article briefly reviews the major legal issues that affect psychiatric nursing practice today. In this article they discuss about Patients right and nursing responsibilities. According to law, psychiatric treatment must be provided in a manner that allows the most freedom and the least restriction to meet the needs of a patient. Consequently, a variety of treatment settings exist, and inpatient treatment is reserved for patients who are mentally ill and require a high degree of monitoring for personal safety or the safety of others. Likewise, seclusion and restraint must be used only when other less restrictive means have been considered and ruled out. "Within 1 hour of the initiation of seclusion or restraint, a face-to-face evaluation by a physician or Licensed Independent Practitioner is conducted to determine the patient's current status, including mental status, physical status, and any risks associated with the initiation or continuation of seclusion or restraint" (Barloon, 2003).

2) reference the article in APA format

Reference:

Barloon, L. (2003, March). *Legal aspects of psychiatric nursing*. Retrieved from [https://www.nursing.theclinics.com/article/S0029-6465\(02\)00060-9/fulltext#Summary](https://www.nursing.theclinics.com/article/S0029-6465(02)00060-9/fulltext#Summary)

3) State your thoughts, feelings, and concerns about the issue

Seclusion and restraint may be used legally only in emergent situations for the least amount of time necessary to protect the patient or others from impending harm. Objective documentation must support the emergent need for such measures and that alternatives were considered. My feelings are as we (Nurses) are responsible to support these standards and to make sure that seclusion and restraint are not used as threats, as punishment, or for staff convenience. Seclusion and restraint may not be used as part of a behavioral management program or as a unit policy.