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**LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN  
NURSING**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Code of Ethics for the profession of nursing has been developed in Australia for the purpose of enhancing the efficiency of practices in the clinical area (Black, 2016). The main purpose of developing such codes is to identify fundamental ethical standards and values which can encourage nursing practices to a greater extent. The present essay has been developed in an attempt to depict code of ethics and national regulations that need to be considered while managing nursing practices. The study emphasizes a patient who has chronic health issues and number of co-morbidities; hence in this respect, the importance of nursing practices, is being discussed in the essay.

### Ethical code of conduct for nursing

According to the ethical code of nursing, it is vital for the nurses to give importance to quality services and also to respect values and dignity for others. Patient (having chronic health issues) needs to properly interact with the nurses so that to depict co-morbid health problems. In this domain, it is also crucial for nurses to value the diversity of people, value informed decision-making and valuing the culture of safety in the nursing profession (Cherry and Jacob, 2016). This can only underpin the way health services are being delivered to the patients. Prior engaging in any case, nurses should be very much committed to the profession of nursing as that will only support best practice.

There must be a provision of self-respect in nursing profession which is also useful in promoting the personal wellbeing of patients. Along with this, there must be psychological interaction among patient and nurse (Daly, Speedy and Jackson, 2017). Patient participation plays imperative role in health care services; thus here in the present case as well, the nurse needs to enroll the patient in care services. Since it is a partnership care between nurse and learner (student trainee); therefore it is vital for both of them to depict respect and dignity for each other while acknowledging their duties. Hence, there should be a suitable collaboration between nurse and trainee so that both of them can adopt necessary practices for the profession of nursing (Ashton, 2016).

In the subsequent case, it is vital for the nurse to play the role of mentor for strengthening future practices (Finkelman, 2017). Respect for the community is yet another approach that

needs to be given much importance so that social values can be raised accordingly. Since the student is not handling her responsibilities appropriately; therefore it is vital for the nurses to inform and guide her about the nursing profession. Along with proper mentoring, the nurse must encourage the student to tackle all the activities professionally. This is the way through which better care can be given to the patient.

#### Professional code of conduct for nursing

Professional codes of nursing are developed for the purpose of determining minimum standard of conduct through which health care professionals can act in a professional capacity. It states that nursing practices should be carried out in the safe and competent manner by the standards of the health system (Fry-Bowers, 2017). All the laws determined for the practice of nursing should be followed in the care provision, and nurses should also consider values and beliefs under care provision. In addition to this, nurses must protect confidential information of patients; hence for that accurate database should be developed. In the following case, it is identified that student is not preparing accurate records; therefore here nurses are liable to guide the student towards correct record keeping.

Apparently, the process of nursing starts with care; thus it greatly supports health, well-being and informed the decision making of people (Grace, 2017). This means there must be adequate involvement of patients in the decision-making process as they possess the right of involvement. Under the professional conduct, nurses are accountable to promote and preserve trust and privilege in the relationship between nurses and service care users. Therefore, the suitable relationship should be developed so that the value of care can be enhanced. On the other hand, attention from the community can only be acquired through focusing more on protecting community's trust and confidence (Hagger, Ellis and Strumidlo, 2016).

Thus, it depicts that the practice of nursing should be transparent and ethical so acquire attention from the patients (Griffith and Tengnah, 2017). Professional code of conduct states that nurses should not breach the regulations and they should always perform their duties in the best interest of clients. In addition to this, safe nursing practices should be promoted, and the provision of carelessness should not exist in the profession. Nurses, reasonably in good faith should always advise and collect feedback from the patient regarding the service efficiency. Apart from this, in present case nurse and student both need to enhance the scope of knowledge

and lawful authority to maintain all legal dimensions (Hagger, Ellis and Strumidlo, 2016). Nurses are liable for safety and protection of the patient; therefore right and transparent information shall be given to the patient about the care and treatment. This will not only underpin health dimensions, but also it will maximize the service capability of nurses.

### **EDUCATIONAL CONSIDERATION IN THIS SCENARIO**

In this case, nurses need to train the student regarding the importance of professionalism in the process of nursing. This can also be done in the form of training for student's learning. Nurse and student both are working in this case; therefore it is vital for them to work with collaboration (Holloway and Galvin, 2016). While taking any decision for the patient, it is crucial to get proper and adequate information about the case so that chances of mistakes can be avoided. Further patient has the problem with a mental disorder; however then also nurse need to inform the patient regarding the process of treatment. In the care provision, the nurse should directly support the client through motivation and encouragement (Daly, Speedy and Jackson, 2017).

### **RISKS TO PATIENT'S ONGOING CARE**

In the present case, several risks are present to patient's ongoing care because the student is not emphasizing on better care services. She has been careless on many things; therefore this can impact the overall health values. The patient is diagnosed with mental health disorder; therefore problems related to chronic issues and co-morbidity can increase (Morton, Fontaine, Hudak and Gallo, 2017). The patient will not be able to support and communicate with the nurses in the care provision because of mental illness. However, no family members are there for the patient; hence under legal aspects, nurses have all the authority to undertake decisions for patient's problems. The patient will not be able to contribute to the process of care because he is unable to express his health issues. Further, the student is also not experienced; therefore issues related to the care provision could also develop accordingly (Cherry and Jacob, 2016).

## **MANAGE PATIENT'S SAFETY, PATIENT-CENTERED CARE, AND STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING**

In the present case, patiently is mentally ill; therefore it is crucial for the nurses to give proper consideration in this area since he is unable to take proper care of himself. The patient also has challenging behavior; therefore nurses also need to try to reduce the risk of self-harm. In mental illness, the patient usually does self-harm which affects the practice of care and other dimensions as well (Nieswiadomy and Bailey, 2017). Thus, the chances of risks are higher so. Accordingly, nurses need to tackle the situation responsibly. To enhance safety provisions for the patient, it is crucial for nurses to develop a safe environment at the care home.

Under patient-centered care, it is significant for the nurses to listen, inform and involve patients in their care (Ashton, 2016). As per the needs and preferences of the patients, suitable care should be delivered. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in health care has developed several reforms which are customer oriented and which directs nurses to consider the best interest of patients (Scott, 2016). Along with this, high quality and safe services should be provided to the subsequent patient under professional and ethical nursing.

The commission has also set several standards to underpin the practices of clinics through emphasizing on the proposed legal framework. It includes some strategies which aid in providing care that is concerned with respect, responsiveness, needs and values of consumers and legal dimensions of care provision (Urden, Stacy and Lough, 2017). Along with this, to manage student learning, nurses are required to guide the student at every stage. Proper controlling and monitoring of the activities is also essential in this case to make the student capable of handling nursing cases.

## **CONCLUSION**

Summing up the entire research work, it can be said that efficiency of nursing practices can be increased through adopting patient-centered approach wherein focus is laid on providing quality services. It is also identified that student learning is important in this case as patient needs to have better care facilities. Additionally, it can also be attributed that prior handling any case, nurses as well as practitioners need to gain experience in the same domain.

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