Patient Advocacy

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**Case Study**

Nursing is a field that frequently has to deal with an ethical dilemma in a medical ground. A demonstration of a case study encountered by healthcare providers who provide services and manage Jehovah's witnesses who are positioned in a dangerous state due to clinical life-threatening condition. A 22-year old African American pregnant lady admitted to the emergency department in a medical situation resulting in a car accident. She was presented with symptoms and signs of internal bleeding and was suggested to have emergency surgery and blood transfusion to save the fetus and her life. She has believed in Bible scripture and due to fear of surgery, she refuses to have a blood transfusion and surgery (Sari, Baysal, Celik, & Eser, 2018). Now physicians and nurses have to compromise on the care standards or to respect the patient's autonomy or have to go for surgery to save her life without informing or taking her consent (Norlyk, Haahr, & Hall, 2016). In this critical state, physicians have to opt for medical emergency surgery and to present the standards of care to save her life.

**Ethical Dilemma and Bioethical Decision Making**

Ethical Dilemma is a condition where physicians have to handle a situation that arises where they have to opt for a decision exclusively alternative (Sari et al., 2018). A bioethical decision model is an approach that is intended to improve the procedure that involves decision making in an ethical scenario. It has been observed that the decision is sometimes undesirable and sometimes desirable (Epstein & Turner, 2015). In the current scenario, if the physicians have to follow and respect the patient's autonomy and in that case, the patient would have died (Sari et al., 2018). The other option would have possibly saved her life but would undesirably violating the patient's autonomy.

**Medical and Non-Medical Facts**

Medical departments are designed to follow the code of ethics to save patients and deliver the quality of care. Healthcare providers have to choose decisions that are best suitable for patients (Epstein & Turner, 2015). Following the ethical principles, the critical state of the patient required a prompt decision to save her life and the fetus (Aitamaa, Leino-Kilpi, Iltanen, & Suhonen, 2016). Therefore, they decided to take the patient to the surgery and without her consent, she was saved and her baby was delivered. In the current scenario, the patient was not in a state that she would have decided also she was not having any person with her from her family member except her little brother (Norlyk et al., 2016). Considering the religious believe that states Jehovah's witness as whatsoever would eat any blood would not be from among his people is also true, however, Bible does not allow anyone to take his/her life and also does not allow to let patients die in front of you.

**Ethical Principles Applied to this Scenario**

The ethical principles applied to this scenario are autonomy, beneficence, and non-maleficence (Aitamaa et al., 2016). Autonomy was to respect patients' believes and let her choose natural birth and this could have been achieved at the cost of her life (Epstein & Turner, 2015). Beneficence is a case where physicians have to deliver quality of care that is best suitable for the patient. Not opting for the blood transfusion would be against the principle of non-maleficence (Epstein & Turner, 2015). Allowing her to die would be against the code of ethical principles of healthcare facilities (Norlyk et al., 2016). The healthcare organizations are intended to deliver services that are best for the patients and communities.

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It is important to take decisions according to the will or informed consent of the patient, whereas in the current scenario, she was not able to give her consent for the blood transfusion and surgery (Epstein & Turner, 2015). Therefore, physicians have to opt for surgery without her consent (Sari et al., 2018). After surgery and saving her life and her baby’s, physicians and nurses need to explain her state and the critical condition to show her accept what physician did was best for her and her baby (Aitamaa et al., 2016). The patient needs to understand the critical states in which she was admitted and also, following the principles of non-maleficence and justice, it was significant to take decisions on behalf of her (Norlyk et al., 2016). The patient was guided by the believes she had as it was the physician's responsibility to save her life and to make the decision that was best suitable for her and her baby. The healthcare providers have guided and advocated their patients regarding ethical principles and compared her condition to following the best suitable decision was to opt for surgery (Sari et al., 2018).

**Ethical Principles**

American Nursing Code of Ethics has established principles to deliver safe healthcare practice of all aspects of healthcare facilities (Aitamaa et al., 2016). The principles of ethics that must be adhered to in the healthcare facilities are justice, beneficence, autonomy, and non-maleficence. Justice is termed in a sense of fairness and it means that the services delivered to the patient are fair, just and equally to all groups of communities (Aitamaa et al., 2016). The principle of beneficence is defined as delivering healthcare facilities to the patients that are good for them. The principle of non-maleficence is described as not harm the patients and it includes intentional and unintentional harm (Sari et al., 2018). The principle of autonomy is respecting patients' believes and decisions therefore, nurses accept the patient as an individual and unique person to be respected in all ways.

**References**

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