WK3 Applying an Ethical Decision-Making Model

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**Introduction**

The wellbeing of a patient is in the hands of a healthcare professional, whether they are physician/doctors, nurses or paramedical staff. This wellbeing is hugely dependent on the ethics of these professionals, and their ethical decision-making. Hence, the interests of a patient's wellbeing are directly linked to the ethical or standardized practice and a decision made by healthcare professionals. In their daily routine, nurses and patients go through various ethical issues faced which are linked to the ethical decision-making issues. One such issue is the collision of the nurse's rights with that of the patient's beliefs. Therefore, an explicit model or systematic method for making an ethical decision is highly prioritized by the healthcare professionals and nurses for solving such ethical decision-making matters. This paper will explore the solution by applying a six-step integrated model of ethical decision-making for nurses as proposed by Eun-Jun Park in his article published in the journal of nursing ethics.

**Discussion**

**Integrated Model of Decision-Making**

The model proposed by Park included six steps as follows:

1. Recognition of an ethical issue
2. Gathering additional information for identifying the issue and then developing solutions
3. Advancement of options for examination and evaluation
4. Choosing the best option and validation for it
5. Expansion of varied, realistic ways of implementing the ethical actions and decisions
6. Estimation of effects and improvement in the strategies for preventing the issue from reoccurring

The ethical issue related to the rights of the patient is that nurses have since long struggled with challenging situations, where their rights or beliefs collided with that of the patients. A moral issue can happen in any healthcare services circumstance where ethical decision-making is necessitated due to the "wrongness" or "rightness" concerning the proficient leadership of nurses and the useful consideration of patients (Park, 2012). For instance, the nurses on critical care duty often come across the situations where the presence of an ethical issue regarding the beliefs of the patient and their right to know is in contradiction with the nurse’s nature of duty. Justifiably, all the nurse or healthcare professionals are influenced by the choices lead by ethics, so it is difficult for these nurses to go through such an intense situation. In such scenarios where there is a contradiction in the ethical decision making between the nurses and their patients, nurses often come up with the model of ethical decision making as the solution for such issues.

**Application of the Model**

The foremost step in Park’s ethical decision-making model is to identify the ethical issue; hence it has been identified as the contradiction among patient’s beliefs and rights with the nurses’ (Park, 2012). The additional information in this regard would be the specification of the issues, whether it is related to the end-of-life decision or issue of consent, or the cultural safety of the patient. The difference in ethics and standards of nurses' with the patients is the sole reason for the occurrence of such problems in nursing (Kulju et al., 2016).

Regarding the ethical issue of patient’s rights and its contradiction with nurse’s practice or rights, the next step is to identify the options for evaluation and examination of possible solutions and their options (Kangasniemi, Pakkanen, & Korhonen, 2015). So the significant solution to this issue is providing proper training to the nurses regarding cultural safety and effective communication with the patients with diverse or unified cultures. The violation of patient's rights and beliefs should not be considered any lesser than a serious violation because it is the rightful duty of a healthcare practitioner to provide a secure and accurate treatment to the patient with absolute righteousness. It is one of the best options for nurses to deal with the patients with complete information and compliance to their cultural safety and this will bring productivity in the patient-nurse relationship making them understand the rights and beliefs of each other and this will thus lead to the better outcome of patient quality care. By creating a safe patient experience it enhances the healthcare service to unbound heights and it serves the purpose of the society.

Moreover, the second last step of Park’s model is the most important step as it ensures the integration of the varied, realistic ways of implementing ethical actions and decisions. Therefore, the proper ways and manners of implementing the solutions provided above for the proposed issue are by ensuring the learning of nurses and healthcare professionals regarding the ethics and morals of nursing, which they are taught in nursing or medical school. The last step is to assess the implemented solutions, and the easy way to do it by carrying out the surveys or interviews, or the screening of nurses can be done regarding the learning of ethics (Park, 2012).

**Conclusion**

 The above-mentioned model devised by Park is effective in its own way as it provides the solution in a step-by-step manner for the ethical issues in nursing. The nursing field is full of excessive challenges as they are the sole protectors of patient’s wellbeing and is they do neglected duty or misjudge their intentions for the cause it will heavily endure penalty to the patient’s outcomes and wellbeing. In certain scenarios where there is a disagreement in the ethical decision making between the nurses and their patients, nurses often come up with the model of ethical decision making as the solution for such issues. Hence, this paper explored the possible solution by applying a six-step integrated model of ethical decision-making for nurses as proposed by Eun-Jun Park in his article published in the journal of nursing ethics.

**References**

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