Analyzing an Ethical Decision

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Nurses in healthcare facilities face ethical dilemmas during their everyday practice. A case study of Mr. Green was demonstrated suffering from cancer at the end of life stage. Nursing staff was taking care of the patient, where the patient told a nurse that he would attempt suicide and keep the secret for him (“The patient suicide attempt – An ethical dilemma case study—ScienceDirect,” n.d.). Mr. Green was 57 years old under nursing staff care for aggressive prostate cancer. After diagnosis, he refused to have treatment or surgical therapy 7 years ago (“The patient suicide attempt – An ethical dilemma case study—ScienceDirect,” n.d.). Alternate treatment therapy was chosen, but he was not able to maintain his follow-up sessions (“The patient suicide attempt – An ethical dilemma case study—ScienceDirect,” n.d.). The patient came to know that he would have 4-6 weeks of life after having a cystoscopy. He told a nurse that he has decided to die but keep the secret for me.

# Ethical Dilemma

The patient's behavior created a difficult situation for the nursing staff as according to the definition circumstances where a person has to choose between mutually exclusive substitutes is an ethical dilemma (Day, Leahy-Warren, & McCarthy, 2016). The nurse was in a state where it has to keep the secret and respect patient's autonomy. To inform the staff to apply an intervention such as monitoring and observing patient to prevent him from suicide.

# Ethical Principles Apply to the Case Study

Three principles of ethics applied here are autonomy, non-maleficence, and beneficence (“The patient suicide attempt – An ethical dilemma case study—ScienceDirect,” n.d.). The noteworthy rational incongruity amid autonomy and beneficence in the scenario. The main intention which grounds the ethical dilemma is ‘if healthcare members should inform other staff members regarding patient's recklessness without patient's consent’ (“The patient suicide attempt – An ethical dilemma case study—ScienceDirect,” n.d.). Moreover, the ethical code non-maleficence is measured in the moral condition, which invades the autonomy principle; however, it contributes provision to the principle of beneficence.

# Analysis and Comparison

ANA provides three principle ethical issues, such as the provision of an ethical environment where autonomy and beneficence are practiced (“Drawing the Line: Texas Nursing Law, Ethics and Professional Boundaries || NurseCE.com,” n.d.). Maintaining an environment where moral resilience and distress are practiced. Provision of social justice and applying the principles most beneficial to the situation or patient's condition.

According to the Texas code of laws for nursing, nurses are the key professionals involved in the delivery of healthcare services and have to maintain ethical principles in their practice. Nurses have to apply ethics and principles during their practice particularly, autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice is predominantly important for them to utilize and therefore were applied in the given scenario appropriately (Aitamaa, Leino-Kilpi, Iltanen, & Suhonen, 2016). Texas state defines the role of nurses in risk-taking and responsibility for quality care. In the given scenario, nurses have to make decision best suitable and appropriate for the patients and their duty (Karakachian & Colbert, 2017). Applying autonomy ethics on the given scenario would be respecting patients' decisions, whereas providing information to the staff would help them to prevent from worst scenario (Ling, Yu, & Guo, 2019). Decisions are made according to the circumstances and principles of ethics are provided at every state and healthcare facilities very clearly. State of Texas ensures the welfare of people by providing quality care and services at healthcare facilities utilizing registered and licensed nurses.

The best practice that I would prefer would involve the assessment of the situation, such as whether the patient is in a state that he/she would go and attempt suicide and also it would help them to make the right decision (Ling et al., 2019). Provision and discussion of the situation with healthcare providers such as social workers and psychologists would help a nurse to decide prompt action regarding any scenario.

**References**

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