

*Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific
Research
Tikrit University
College of Nursing*



Basic Nursing Sciences

First Year - 2023-2024

Ethical Decision Making

by:

Professor

DR. ABDUL RAHMAN JIHAD

2023

2024

A- Introduction

- 1- Decisions about ethical dilemmas are influenced by numerous and wide-ranging factors.
- 2- As the world changes, new ethical dilemmas arise and ethical dilemmas take on new significances.
- 3- Major advance science ,technology ,and health care during the past 50years have outpaced the abilities of those in ethical and law to solve problems created by these advanced.

B- Factors that influence ethical decision

making in health care 1- Sociocultural

factors have include :

- a- Attitudes about women and women's role.
- b- Beliefs and practices related to marriage and the family.
- c- Increased emphasis on individual rights .
- d- Religious values. e- Values that society places on life and right to die with dignity f- Demographic change ,of government funds for health care .

2- Scientific and technological advances have included:

- 1- Intensive care units
- 2- Patient monitoring devices .
- 3- Life-sustaining medications.

4- Artificial life-

support systems. 5-

Renal dialysis.

6- Organ transplantation and artificial organs.

7- Computerized diagnostic equipment ,such as the computerized tomography scan and magnetic resonance imaging .

3- Legal issues have included:

a- Abortion b- Right to die c- Right to refuse care

4- Changes in the occupational status of health care

workers have included: 1- Expanded roles ,

responsibilities , and educational requirement for

nurses .2- Collective bargaining and strikes.

3- More authoritarian attitude shown by hospitals toward their employees .4- Attempts by nurses to increase their independence in practice

5- Consumer involvement in health care has led to :

= Demands by the public for a greater voice in health care decisions in response to a growing perception that health care has become depersonalized.

C- Ethical concepts and ethical codes in decision making Ethical decision making usually involves at least one of four basic concepts : autonomy ,justice ,fidelity ,and beneficence.

1- Autonomy refers to the right to make decision about one's health care

a- Autonomy has certain limitations ,particularly when it interferes with another's rights .

b- Professionals also have a degree of autonomy.

2- Justice refers to the obligation to be

fair to all people. a- This obligation

applies to persons and governments.

b- The rights of one person become limited when they infringe on the rights of another person.

3- Fidelity refers to ones faithfulness or loyalty to agreements and responsibility that one has accepted. a- Fidelity is one of the key elements of accountability .

b- Conflicts can arise between fidelity to patient and fidelity to employers ,government, and society. **4- Beneficence refers to do good and not harm.**

a- Problems can arise not only when trying to decide what is good for another person but also when determining who should make the decision .

b- A temporary harm to a patient may eventually produce a greater good during the course of treatment.

5- Ethical decision making is based on ethical codes that serve as guidelines for the profession.

a- Ethical codes are based in part on the four concepts of autonomy ,justice ,fidelity, and beneficence .

D – American Nurses Association (ANA) ethical code for nurses

The ANA code focuses on protecting the patients' rights while honoring obligations to the nursing profession and to the public. =
Key ideas

1- Respect for human dignity .

2- Patients right to privacy and confidentiality .

3- Patient and public safety .

4- Responsibility and

accountability of nurses .5-

Nursing competency .

6- Participation in

research .7-

Quality of patient

care .

8- Nursing's integrity .

9- Collaboration with other members of the health care team

E- The International Council of Nurses (ICN) Code of ethical for nurses .

a- The code is divided into two major section :general nursing responsibilities and specific concern of the profession.

b- The code emphasize the nurses obligations to the patient rather than to the physician ,a departure from earlier thinking.

Key ideas :

a- Nursing standards .

b- Health promotion and restoration .

c- Delivery of health services.

d- Professional accountability

F- Making ethical decisions in nursing practice .

- 1- Most of the ethical dilemmas that nurses encounter do not have clear-cut solutions.
- 2- Collaborative decision making to resolve complex ethical questions helps protect the professional from making unwise or erroneous decisions
- 3- In all ethical dilemmas ,the nurse should attempt to understand fully the moral issues involved.
- 4- The nurse must follow several necessary steps in order to make an ethical decision:
 - a- Identify the dilemma as clearly as possible ,using all available data.
 - b- Examine personal values as thoroughly as possible .
 - c- Identify the ethical principles involved in the dilemma.
 - d- Examine all possible solutions to the dilemma , regardless of the ethical principles involved.
 - e- Evaluate the likely outcome of each solution .
 - f- Choose the solution whose outcome is most in accord with personal values and ethical principles