



Ethics: Aging Research, Driving, Gambling, Sexuality

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Disclosures

- No conflicts of interest were evident in the development of content for this activity by planning committee members or presenters.
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Disclosures

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OBJECTIVES

- Participants will be able to define four ethical principles used to guide ethical decision making.
- Participants will identify three common areas of ethical decision making that commonly face Nurses working with the elderly
- Participants will be able to use an ethical framework addressing common ethical issues addressed by interdisciplinary teams dealing with senior issues

Presenter



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We Are a Team



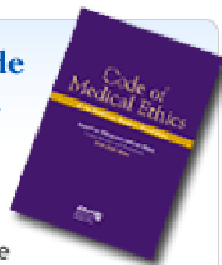
Before We Begin, We Must Know and Remember Our Code of Ethics



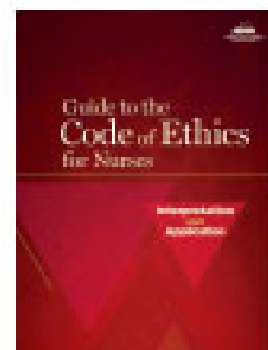
AMA's Code of Medical Ethics

The most
comprehensive
ethics guide for
physicians.

[Purchase the book ►](#)



Updated Guide to the Code of Ethics for Nurses: Interpretation and Application



Don't Forget

- The American Association for Nurses (ANA) code of ethics. This is a guideline that is considered non-negotiable and supersedes the policies of an individual organization in regards to nursing practice and ethical decision making.
- Other professional disciplines are guided and held to code of ethics for their practice.

<http://www.nursingworld.org/>



Case Study I

- Mrs. Landry is an 88 year old woman recently admitted to an Assisted Living Facility with mild cognitive impairment, she is high functioning, has recently lost her husband and family wants her to have more interaction with others and looking forward to her participation in activities. Mr. Smith is a 92 year old married resident at this facility, cognitively intact and wheel chair bound. His wife does not reside in the facility.

Issue

Nursing staff are noticing that Mrs. Landry and Mr. Smith are beginning to have more and more intimate touching, holding hands and even kissing. Staff are questioning the competency of Ms. Landry to enter into this type of relationship and the morality and reaction that Mrs. Smith may have in regards to her husbands behavior.

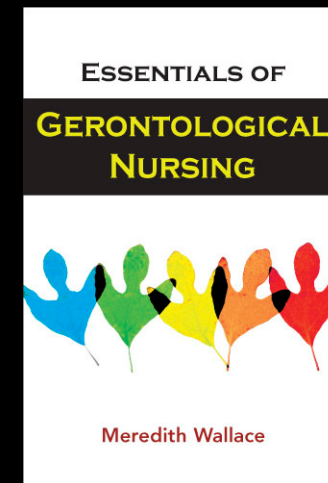
Four (4) Ethical Principles Used to Guide Ethical Decision Making

- Autonomy
- Beneficence
- Nonmaleficence
- Justice



Autonomy

- Often referred to as (Self-Determination)
- The right to govern one self or to freely choose ones's actions as long as these choices do not interfere with the autonomy or rights of other persons.
- Essentials of Gerontological Nursing
Meredith Wallace, 2008.



Beneficence

- Doing good or participating in behavior that benefits a recipient of care.



Nonmaleficence

- Above all do no harm



Justice

- The fair allocation of resources to individuals or the provision of an equal share of available resources to each person



Using Our Ethical Principles for Case Study I

Autonomy

Beneficence

Nonmaleficence

Justice

Sexuality

- Most healthcare professionals are unprepared and often uncomfortable with addressing sexual issues that occur in facilities.
 - It is imperative that we understand the physiologic changes that complicate sexuality among older adult
 - We must become more knowledgeable about safe-sex and seniors
 - Understand interventions that we can make to promote healthy sexuality among older adults



We Didn't Used to Talk About Sex

- Viagra
- On-line dating
- Senior Communities
- Higher Divorce Rates



STDs Running Rampant In Retirement Community

Doctor Blames Viagra, Lack Of Sex Education

POSTED: Saturday, May 27, 2006

UPDATED: 10:40 pm EDT May 27, 2006

Doctors said sexually transmitted diseases among senior citizens are running rampant at a popular Central Florida retirement community, according to a Local 6 News report.

A gynecologist at The Villages community near Orlando, Fla., said she treats more cases of herpes and the human papilloma virus in the retirement community than she did in the city of Miami.

"Yeah, they are very shocked (to hear the diagnosis)," gynecologist Dr. Colleen McQuade said. "I had a patient in her 80s."

"More and more senior citizens are ending up in the gynecologist office, and their diagnosis is a sexually transmitted disease," Local 6 reporter Vanessa Medina said.



Local 6 featured Louis Franklin, who used to date in the community at least three times a week.

"I have had a better dating life since I have been here than I have ever had," Franklin said. "I know there are things going around."

A doctor blamed Viagra, a lack of sex education and no risk for pregnancy for the spike in sexually transmitted diseases

at The Villages.

"All I can repeat are the things I have heard which are things like, 'Should I bring the little blue pills over tonight?'" community singles group president Richard Matwysen said.

Watch Local 6 News for more on this story.



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Gambling

- Most of us dealing with older adults are sadly unaware of the issues of pathological, problematic and at-risk gambling among the population that we serve.
- Some reasons include increased sanctioned gambling—such as lotteries, casino growth and even on line betting.



Why We Should Involve Ourselves

Gambling is problematic when it results in

- increased stress
- alcohol use
- loss of income
- medication non-compliance
- Malnutrition
- safety risks



Lets look at Reasons we are seeing more gambling

- Financial issues that they hope gambling will resolve
- Multiple losses in their lives may be soothed by the excitement or rush of the win
- What begins as a “fun event” becomes an addiction.



DSM-IV “Diagnostic Criteria for 312.31 Pathological Gambling”


- Link for downloading the 10 criteria of which 5 Or more may demonstrated persistent maladaptive gambling.

<http://www.npgaw.org/media/pdfs/PDF5.pdf>

Case Study

- E-mail me at Mariaw@mmlearn.org

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- You may also phone in a question to (210) 734-1222.

Driving

- By far the most sensitive class that I have taught





Case Study II

- Mr. Jones is an 91 year old male living alone in an apartment complex. One afternoon, leaving the airport from dropping off family members pulled out and hit a taxi cab. Three individuals and the driver were severely injured, one critically injured.



Ethical Principles Applied

- Autonomy
- Beneficence
- Nonmaleficence
- Justice

Ageism and Ethics

- Should all older drivers be tested at a certain age?
 - What age 70-80-90
- Should seniors over a certain age have their driving privileges revoked to protect the public?
- What is our responsibility to assist seniors to drive longer, drive better, drive safer
- How can we best support families in addressing these profoundly difficult issues



Research

- The Tuskegee Experiment conducted between 1932 and 1972.
 - Conducted experiment on 399 black men in the late stages of syphilis. These were for the most part poor sharecroppers in Alabama and they were used for research – not to cure but to see the ravages of the disease.



Research Today

- Individuals participating have the right to be informed and must provide informed consent.
- Institutional Review Boards are charged with ensuring participants are aware of risks vs. potential benefit, that no coercion is involved



Ethical Issues We Have Not Addressed

- End of Life Issues
- Family Rights
- Financial Issues that affect residents and their families
- Health Care Issues in a Flux
- Other Addictions

What Guides Us All

- Laws- legal constraints
- Code of Ethics
- State and Federal Regulations
- Policy of Organizations



Building Ethical Muscle

- When Right vs. Right is the real issue.
- Who is your ethics committee and what training and backgrounds do they have
- Who will facilitate your ethical decision making

Never Easy



For More Information

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