

Ethical Issue

- Is a question about right or wrong and involves making a decision about the appropriateness of a single value i.e. honesty, truthfulness

Ethical Dilemma

- occurs when there is a conflict of values, loyalties and obligations.

Code of Ethics

- our written expression as professionals of our professional promise to our clients to serve their best interests by making sure that they are not harmed and that wherever and whenever possible to benefit them with our knowledge and skill.

Beneficence

- an ethical standard related to the responsibility to enhance the wellbeing of clients by acting positively on their behalf and actively supporting their health and wellbeing.

Non - Maleficence

- an ethical standard related to the responsibility to "do no harm" and wherever possible , to prevent harm from occurring to our clients.

Standard of Practice

- is a framework which provides a model for common practice through definitions, guidelines, policies and procedures established by a health profession to support practitioner's in the process of responsible decision-making to assure safety and quality in the delivery of health services.

*Adapted from NHPCA Code of Ethics & Cidalia
Pavia PHD*

STEPS IN ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

Step One: Identify if an ethical issue or ethical dilemma

Step Two: Gather relevant facts

- Personal facts
- Medical facts
- Legal facts
- Ethical facts

Step Three: Explore possible actions

- We must justify each option we identify with the reason or reasons which support this option as a good choice.

Step Four: Make a decision & pick an action

- We must decide which option we want to pick and why .
- We must provide reasons why we didn't pick the other choices.

Step Five: Take action

- Put the option you choose into action.

Adapted from Cidalia Pavia

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ETHICAL WORKSHOP SCENARIO

Mrs. Burns arrives with her daughter, Carol and says " Carol needs a massage. She is only 14 so I am providing consent for her treatment.

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Before you answer Mrs. Burns, Carol gets a call on her cell phone and walks away to have some privacy. At this time Mrs. Burns says in a quiet voice " I am paying for the treatment and I want to know if Carol's got any piercing anywhere on her body.

You know how kids are. She won't tell and I think they're absolutely hideous and harmful. I read this magazine about how dangerous they can be. If you find any please give me a call . I need to know" .

You have Mrs. Burns sign the consent form for treatment and then she starts walking away. She says on the way out the door that she will be back in an hour to pay for the massage and pick up Carol. As Carol leaves she waves goodbye to her daughter who has just finished her cell phone call.

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1. Is there an ethical issue or dilemma in this situation ?
 2. If yes what are the relevant facts.
 3. What are the options/choices you have in this situation and why ?
 4. After outlining all the options or choices which one are choosing and why ?
 5. How are you going to implement this action ?

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Option I

Option II

Option III

