

Ethical Decision Making in Nursing Practice

Applying the m-EAF to a Personal Situation

In an effort to put the concepts learned in this course into practice, think back to a particular situation which you believe to have included an ethical problem. If you are having trouble identifying an ethical problem, think back to a situation in which you may have felt uncomfortable.

Describe your personal situation in detail, including who was involved and what happened. Be as detailed as possible. Use additional paper as needed.

Now let's apply the m-EAF to this situation.

Directions: Answer each statement or questions in the space provided. Use additional paper as needed.

Step 1: Self-Awareness

List your values and beliefs that may be impacting on this situation. Consider all of your personal, familial, cultural, regional, religious, professional and other values.

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Step 2: Identify the Problem

What is the nature of the problem at hand? Identifying the problem correctly can be a challenge, however if the problem is not identified correctly, than finding a solution becomes more difficult.

Step 3: Gather Relevant Information

Include all objective data, as well as subjective data relative to cultural/religious issues, the process of the relationship between the individuals involved, any policies and procedures that may be applicable. Are there laws or regulations to be considered in this situation?

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Step 4: Identify the Ethical Principles Involved/Define the Ethical Dilemma

Reflect on the situation; look at the ethical principles presented in this course; identify those that apply to this situation. Be very specific about what is the ethical dilemma in this situation.

Step 5: Identify Resources, Options and Consequences

Consider all the resources available to you to assist in this situation. What guidance can be obtained by the ANA Code for Nurses? Colleagues? Ethics Committees? Etc? Identify the various options open to you in this situation. What are the benefits and consequences of each of these options?

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Step 6: Make a Decision/Plan the Action to be Taken

After consideration of the various options, a decision must be reached and a plan of action developed. Write out a plan detailing the roles, behaviors and actions needed in order to implement your particular decision, identify rationales for your actions. How will this plan be communicated to others involved in the situation?

Step 7: Act/Implement the Plan

Take the steps necessary to carry out the plan. Your role as the nurse will vary depending on the particular situation.

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Step 8: **Evaluate**

Was the plan effective? What was the outcome of the plan? Has the ethical dilemma resolved? What did you learn about ethics from this situation? What did you learn about yourself? Others? How will you use this knowledge in the future?
