

## Role-play proposals for the workshop

### Ethics Module

Theme: Facing different ethical dilemmas in nursing.

#### Indications:

Participants split in 5 groups. 5 representatives of the groups extract a different ethics related situation from the ones mentioned below.

15 minutes are given to prepare each group's strategy/opinion, then, the group representatives present their ideas.

#### General question:

What would you do if you were facing the following patient-care situation that most of nurses face on a regular basis?

#### 1. Situation:

You have received a discharge order for a homeless patient hospitalized for pneumonia. You know very well that the patient needs further care that will, most certainly, not be delivered "at home". You are confronting a dilemma related to the ethical issue of the distribution of scant resources that occurs frequently within health care arenas. The ethical principle of justice guides the fair and equal treatment of all people; yet, you need to support the consequences of limited organizational and societal financial resources. (Medical dilemma sources:

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

Discuss what would be your approach in this situation? How would you treat the patient and what advice would you give him? How would you work with the hospital resources in such case?

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

#### Situation:

You work with a doctor who is prejudiced against fat people and generally has low people skills. He is blunt and rude and does not seem to care. He is constantly referring to his patients in terms of their physical appearance at the nurses station, and it is almost always something about weight. (Medical dilemma source: <http://allnurses.com/>)

How do you find this behavior and how do you think it affects the patients? How would you manage this situation?

#### Situation

You have pro-life oriented personality and some personal beliefs that sometimes affect your judgement and behavior in different situations related to patients' care. You are in the situation

where you need to provide care to a patient who has had an abortion, even though you consider the abortion murder. Are you going to respect the patient's right to choose?

#### 4. Situation

Distribution of resources. Who should get the limited resources? You are working with patients that are in a vegetative state, do you think these patients should be left on life support? Look at the cost of maintaining these patients. These patients are consuming resources that could be used for patients in whom such costly interventions, if available, could save their lives.

Discuss about your role when a family wants to continue life support for a medically futile family member.

#### Situation

Often times, research based knowledge in nursing is contrasted to beliefs gained from such things as religious beliefs.

You are nurse admitting a patient to the hospital that desperately needs a transfusion to live but has the belief that transfusions are unacceptable. You know this patient will die without the transfusion.

Discuss about how you are going to deal with the patient's family who supports the family member's choice and still be supportive of the patient's and family's right to this decision. (Medical dilemmas source in cases 3, 4, 5: <http://www.nursetogether.com>)