

**Prevent power misuse by nurses**

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## Part A

In the healthcare system, there are several instances in which nurses tend to misuse their power over the clients. These may include the verbal abuse, using their status to dominate the client directly, and imposing personal values and other beliefs on clients (Kwame & Petrucka, 2021). This essentially translates to both physical and emotional abuse, which have detrimental effects on client outcomes. What is more, they have a negative effect on the therapeutic relationship between the nurse and the client clients (Kwame & Petrucka, 2021). Nurses must, therefore, be very conscious of their ability to misuse power and take necessary steps to prevent it. This section will look into three ways through which nurses can prevent the misuse of power in their interactions with clients.

First, good nurse-client relationships based on positive connections of mutual trust and respect from the respective parties go a long way in ensuring that misuse of power is eliminated (CNO, 2019). Nurses should be in a position to create such meaningful relationships by actively engaging the clients in important decision-making processes and also promoting their autonomy. This implies that nurses have to accord the clients' rights in making pertinent decisions relating

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collaboration and communication between the nurse and the patient (Kwame & Petrucka, 2021). This sufficiently prevents the misuse of power since the nurse no longer makes decisions for the client but simply acts supportively by advocating and empowering patients' choices.

In addition, nurses can avoid misusing power by effectively identifying and managing their biases and prejudices. As health care providers, nurses have the responsibility to value and respect clients without judgment and discrimination based on their values and beliefs (American Nurses Association, 2018). Notably, nurses are human beings who may have personal biases or

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discussion with peers, and, at times, cultural competence training. By being aware of and addressing their prejudices, nurses have the potential to provide clientele with standard care (Gleasant-DeSimone, 2023) and, in the process, mitigate the misuse of power.

Finally, developing a culture of accountability in the health care systems that will deter nurses from exercising misuse of power is equally pertinent (Elcock, 2018). It is imperative to have policies and procedures for addressing and preventing abuse of power by health

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avenue for the patients to raise issues and provide feedback regarding their experiences with nurses. Patient feedback has been determined to be pertinent in the improvement the standard of care delivered within healthcare institutions (Berger et al., 2020).

Haddad &amp; Geiger, 2018)

nurse and a healthcare assistant are bombarded with simultaneous cardiac arrests in their ward. This section shall also shed light on the ethical perspectives the case nurse should consider when exposed to such difficult ethical dilemmas.

## Main body

than harm to the patient (Varkey, 2021). In this case, it may be quite challenging for the nurse to administer adequate care to both patients at the same. In this regard, it may mean that the nurse may not offer optimum care to the other needy patients requiring attention. This ethical problem

can be solved by involving other members of the healthcare team, such as delegating duties to the enrolled nurse healthcare assistant and seeking assistance from other colleagues.

Another ethical issue the case nurse faces is deciding to prioritize one patient over the other. This dilemma arises because the two patients experience cardiac arrest at the same time. To address this situation, the nurse intubated and connected the first patient to a ventilator, while

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While both patients received attention, this dilemma could be avoided through the recruitment of adequate staffing and having a standby resuscitation team. The additional staff members would alleviate the workload for tenured nurses, enhancing the quality of care delivered to patients.

Notably, the case nurse is also faced with accountability and delegation issues. During the management of two cardiac arrest patients, the nurse had to delegate their tasks to an enrolled nurse and a health care assistant. This raises questions on patient autonomy and the ethical responsibility of nurses to respect autonomy. The principal reason why these questions arise is due to the fact that the principle of autonomy provides patients with an opportunity to make decisions regarding their health care (Liang et al., 2022). In addition, the ethical principle of accountability implies the need for the nurse to take responsibility not only for her acts but also for the acts of the employees to whom she delegated certain duties (Cornock, 2014).

Accordingly, the nurse has to supervise the process of the delegated duties as they are carried out without exposing the employees and clients to danger. These conflicting principles translate to

nursing dilemmas and ethical issues, making it challenging to navigate the nursing realm effectively.

The other ethical issue is based on the competency and qualifications of the nurse attending to the patients. In the case scenario provided, the situation caused the nurse to depend entirely on the healthcare assistant for the management of the patients in question. This casts a

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healthcare provider who is able to ensure that the patients are given the best care. This conflicting situation could have been avoided if there were some laid down qualifications and training for healthcare assistants. With clear policies and guidelines on qualifications and training regarding all healthcare providers, there would be a high level of confidence in the expertise of the healthcare providers, enhancing the quality of care provided to patients. Consequently, this would improve beneficence to the ethical principle, as in carrying out better tasks done by the right people who have this skill and knowledge to do the best for the patient.

From the case scenario, the question of confidentiality and privacy also arises. These principles are breached during the resuscitation process, which takes place in the presence of the nurse, the healthcare assistant and other colleagues. Research shows that a large amount of private data is at risk of being exposed during a patient's resuscitation. This is mainly done

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Nurses Association, 2015). The nurse should do due diligence to ensure that he or she does not reveal information about the patient to the wrong people since it risks complicating matters further.

Lastly, self-care is an ethical issue that the case nurse has to address. In nursing practice, it is unethical to fail to attend to oneself (Linton & Koonmen, 2020). The situation presented in the scenario calls for the need for multitasking and management of several critically ill patients,

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and take care of herself, ask for colleagues' help, or seek assistance between duties so as to avoid burnout. This could enhance her productivity, allowing her to perform her job in a sound state of mind and body.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, there are very many ethical dilemmas that nurses face in their practice, and the case nurse in this situation proves no exception. Diverse situations put nurses in delicate tightropes, which force them to navigate through complex ethical issues of how they can balance their moral obligation towards their patients while following the law and medical standards. As such, principles, rules, and professional standards help nurses make sound decisions in support of safe and ethical practice. In the given case, the nurse can resolve the ethical conflicts by taking the opinion of other members of the healthcare team, sharing tasks with them, maintaining patient confidentiality, and prioritizing self-care as a preventive warning against getting burnt out.

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