**Ethical Dilemmas Regarding Privacy**

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**Student statement:** By submitting this reflection, I am acknowledging that it is my own work. Comments are my own and have not been used in any previous work (inside or outside the institution). I have followed the rules outlined by my instructor and am compliant with the University of Windsor, St. Clair College, and/or Lambton College Academic Integrity Policy.

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| **Category** | **Satisfactory** | **Unsatisfactory** | **Student Reflection (must be typed)** |
| **Look Back**  **(L)** | * Identifies **ONE** relevant clinical event/experience/ learning opportunity that was significant/impactful in one or two sentences. * Describes this **ONE** clinical event so that the reader can gain an understanding of what occurred. * Provides opinion/idea/perspective and feelings related to own. role/actions/performance in this clinical experience. | * Does not provide a clear and succinct description of ONE clinical event, experience or learning opportunity. * Does not provide own feelings related to the clinical experience. * Identified event, experience, or learning opportunity is not relevant to clinical practice. | During my placement at the Windsor Essex County Health Unit in the Infectious Disease Prevention’s Communicable Diseases department, I discussed and participated in one of the monkeypox cases my preceptor was working on. There were many ethical dilemmas. The couple was two males, one of which was not openly out to his family. As a result, he had told them he had COVID and that is why he was isolating. There were a few issues with this. He lived with his family so they may have been exposed and may to get tested which could reveal the true nature of his isolation. It’s also possible that if the Health Unit or any clinic mailed something out that mentioned his condition, this would also be revealed.  Another tricky aspect is that monkeypox involves multiple issues which makes privacy between the two tricky. Public health nurses have to be very careful when talking to each involved member to ensure they are not revealing anything they shouldn’t be, but also notifying when there is information that does need to be revealed. So far, there have been no necessary breeches of privacy. |
| **Examine Experience**  **(E)** | * Selects a scholarly article that relates to this clinical experience (may use a CNO standard or BPG in addition to article, but not in lieu of an article). * Briefly summarizes key ideas/findings of the article. * Compares/contrasts own ideas/thoughts with those expressed by the author(s) with explanation. | * Does not incorporate a scholarly article. * Summary of the key ideas/findings of the article are not included.      * No explanation of the author’s ideas/thoughts compared/contrasted with own. | The article I found reviewed the literature regarding ethical dilemmas in nursing in hopes of providing more guidance to nurses on how to resolve them. Rainer et al. (2018) found that most of the reported ethical issues happened in end-of-life care. Specifically, issues with communication, patient advocacy, and changes in the original plan of care. Other situations linked to ethical dilemmas included physician conflicts, organizational constraints, family conflicts, and privacy and dignity. Interestingly, the authors link dealings with ethical dilemmas and burnout.  I agree with all the points the authors made. It makes sense that the situations involving ethical dilemmas are all so different; there are many care settings and variables within healthcare, it is impossible to make a handbook that explains how to navigate every possibility. It becomes the nurses’ jobs to analyze the situation considering laws, nursing values, and the patient’s specific context to try and make the best decision. This can be extremely stressful. |
| **Appraise**  **and**  **Analyse**  **(A)** | * Discusses at least **two** other people’s ideas/opinions/ perspectives that should be considered related to this clinical event (how might they feel: e.g. client, peer, family, other discipline, etc.).   **\*\***A reflection graded as ***excellent would also include the following:***   * Examines perspectives surrounding this event at the level of nursing in general, and/or society in general (e.g. impact on health care system/nursing profession, political, financial, cultural influences on Canadians). * Identifies how the event/situation challenged own perspective(s) and status quo (usual way of doing things). * Poses questions that should be considered due to their significance to nursing practice. | * No other perspectives are discussed. * Only one other perspective is discussed | From the patient’s experience, it is probably very unnerving knowing that their secret may be revealed accidentally even when precautions are taken. It is also unnerving for the Public Health Nurse knowing that they may have to break that privacy to protect others as well. It may also interfere with what they choose to disclose to healthcare practitioners.  With ethical situations, many nursing organizations stress that there is never one right answer. The College of Nurses of Ontario ([CNO], 2019) recommends using their identified values as guiding points in these situations: client well-being, client choice, privacy and confidentiality, respect for life, maintaining commitments, truthfulness, and fairness.  This has challenged my personal status quo because I always have had belief that it is my duty to protect the patient (including their privacy) at all costs. Ethical situations show that sometimes we cannot do this as it creates more harm than intended good. The question remains on how to train nurses for these situations and what resources there are to protect/support nurses. |
| **Research**  **and**  **Revision**  **(R)** | * Provides summary of learning from this clinical experience and from the article findings. * Identifies what they could have done differently in this clinical experience. | * Summary not provided * Does not identify what they could have changed about their own role/actions/performance in this clinical experience. | Overall, I learned that there are almost always ethical dilemmas in healthcare because the context in which the client lives in needs to be considered and this context does not always align with the values of healthcare. I think in all patient interactions, the Public Health Nurse needs to be very clear with the limits of privacy and confidentiality, so that the patient understands the extent to which their information remains private. |
| **New Perspective**  **(N)** | * Incorporates specific examples of how this new/enhanced knowledge will be implemented into future practice as a nurse. * Identifies a nursing resource(s) that will assist to develop this aspect of practice (e.g. identify a specific nursing textbook etc.). | * No specific examples for implementation into future practice are incorporated. * Does not identify a nursing resource to assist with learning | Ethical dilemmas are always hard to navigate because even if there are similar situations, actions need to be taken based off the individual’s context while ensuring key laws of nursing are not broken. As such, this aspect is not something that can really be developed. It is also important to analyze one’s own beliefs to see whether they may add bias to the case. |
| **Concept Identification** | * Identifies and describes key curricular concepts that influence the experience (minimum one in 1st year; two in 2nd year; three in 3rd year; minimum four in 4th year)   (critical thinking, know-based practice, evidence informed decision-making, health, teaching & learning, professional practice, communication, leadership, collaboration, safety, person family centered care, and informatics) | * Does not identify and/or describe related curricular concepts that relate to the experience/reflection. | Critical thinking – navigating situations that do not have set rules/regulations  Professional practice – upholding professional codes (ethics, privacy and confidentiality)  Person/family centered care – understanding the context the patient lives in and adjusting care accordingly  Informatics – using online resources to gather information |
| **References and APA Format** | * Scholarly article(s) and any additional resources (CNO, BPG) correctly cited in reflection in APA format. * Title page in correct APA format * Reference in correct APA format | * Incorrect APA format throughout reflection * Incorrect APA format on title page * Incorrect APA format for article(s) and/or other sources. | **Student Reference(s) in APA Format:**  College of Nurses of Ontario. (2019). Ethics. *Practice Standards.* https://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41034\_ethics.pdf  Rainer, J., Schneider, J. K., & Lorenz, R. A. (2018). Ethical dilemmas in nursing: An integrative review. *Journal of clinical nursing*, *27*(19-20), 3446–3461. https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.14542 |
| **Grade:** | **□ Satisfactory □ Excellent** | **□ Unsatisfactory** |  |
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