

Discussion question

[Health & Medicine](#), [Nursing](#)



Answers to Ethics Case Study: To Rescue Others at What Risk Ethical dilemma shows a clash in the ideals of laws and personal interest. It is seen in the nursing profession when some actions may be ethical but not legal or unethical but legal (Butts 51). In the case of the five people in the provided situation, their ethical dilemma is the decision to either help the people downstairs or not. They will risk their lives if ever they help those people amidst the burning hospital.

2. Most people may say that life is precious and it should be protected at all cost, but the situation calls for a possible life sacrifice to save many lives. Personally, the author thinks that utilitarianism should be observed which means for the benefit of the majority. The concept supporting it is called teleological theory. It is the ethical theory that focuses on the end result which is in favor of the majority (Timby 44). In addition, fidelity and justice must be observed in rescuing those people in the hospital. Both principles are important as the former provides a work-related commitment of nurses while the latter provides an indiscriminate way of helping others (Ibid 46).

3. It may be risky but saving lives should be the priority. Self-interest may be put aside, but it does not mean that the lives of the five people in that situation must be ended. They may look for alternatives in helping them like calling the nearest fire brigade and disaster response team. In addition, the doctor and Peter must follow the example of Margaret in saving the lives of other patients. Doctors must also ensure the interest of the patients before their own as it is part of their oath and core values. On the other hand, Peter also has a responsibility in saving the patients since it is part of his duty to prepare any rescue and evacuation procedures in case of emergencies.

4. The possible consequences may be the deaths of those who went down to rescue the remaining patients in the damaged hospital. Recent hurricane has destroyed the hospital together with the crashing helicopter. On the other hand, it is also possible that more lives will be saved without any casualties if there would be other rescuers.

5. The alternatives can be prioritized by following the values that must be rendered by the profession in saving lives and prioritizing the welfare of the patients. It is quite normal for people to become scared and risk their lives since they may die in the process. It may be overcome by allowing the utilitarian perspective to be the guide in decision-making.

6. The doctor and Peter must follow the example of Margaret and help the patients downstairs. The doctor may provide quick guidelines for the couple to follow in case there would be any trouble at the rooftop. Peter may ask for an external rescue team to help them in saving lives.

Work Cited

Butts, Janie. *Nursing Ethics: Across the Curriculum and Into Practice*. USA: Jones and Bartlett, 2012. Print.

Timby, Barbara. *Fundamental Nursing Skills and Concepts*. USA: Walters Kluwer Health, 2009. Print.