

Nursing ethics analysis



The doctors wish to turn the machine off but the parents are refusing. What ethical issues are involved? A child of eight has been admitted to Accident and Emergency after having a road traffic accident. She is haemorrhaging (bleeding to death). The parents are Jehovah's Witnesses and refuse to allow her to have a blood transfusion. What ethical issues are involved? The daughter of an elderly woman you have been caring for in a nursing home has asked you if you can try to get her mother moved to a better room.

You have explained to her that such decisions are not within your remit and that she must speak to the manager. Two weeks later, at Christmas time, she presents you with some Boots vouchers to the value of ? 50 as a thank you for all the care you have given to her mother. What ethical issues are involved? You are a student nurse and are currently off-duty and browsing in a bookshop. A man, whom you recognise as the son of a patient you are currently looking after, approaches you and starts chatting. You are attracted to each other and he asks you out on a date.

What ethical issues are involved? One of the patients you are caring for has a sexually transmitted disease. You get talking and soon realise that he is the new boyfriend of one of your best friends. He begs you not to say anything to her. What ethical issues are involved? You have been seconded to a different ward because of staff shortages. You have not had sufficient training or practice in some of the procedures you are being asked to carry out, but everybody is rushed off their feet and they expect you to get on with things.

What ethical issues are involved? You overhear a colleague advising a patient that they should try a particular homeopathic medicine for a specific problem they have. What ethical issues are involved? You are playing dominoes with one of your patients – a young man with a depressive disorder. He confides in you that sometimes he wishes he could end his life. At the end of your conversation he seems to regret telling you this and asks you not to say anything because he just wants to be left alone and not fussed over. What ethical issues are involved?