PROFESSIONAL CARING and ETHICAL PRACTICE

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Common Issues during Critical Illness

• End of life decisions
• Informed Consent
• Advanced Directives
• Quality of life
• Treatment decisions
• Technology
• Resource allocation

PCCN / CCRN EXAM

20%

Advocacy/moral agency 4%
Caring practices 4%
Collaboration 4%
Systems thinking 2%
Response to diversity 2%
Clinical inquiry 2%
Facilitator of learning 2%

Practice Question

An elderly patient with advanced metastatic disease is made a DNR-CCA but remains in the ICU for ventilatory support. The family asks that an Indian prayer service be held at the patient’s bedside.

Advocacy...Caring...Collaboration...Response to Diversity... Systems Thinking...
Best Response?

a. Inform the family that the prayer service cannot be performed
b. Allow the prayer service to be conducted immediately because it is visiting hours
c. Since it is near shift change, wait and let the next shift nurse decide
d. Arrange to transfer the patient to the most private area/room possible

Best Response?

a. Directly inform the physician of the family’s request
b. Inform the family that they will need to discuss this issue with the physician
c. Arrange to have the family meet with the physician to discuss treatment options for the patient
d. Inform the family that the patient’s advance directives for comfort care must be honored

Provision 2

*The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, or community*

Provision 3

*The nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient*

Practice Question

The family of a critically ill patient disagrees with the patient’s advance directives (DNR Comfort Care) and asks the nurse to inform the physician that full aggressive treatment should be given to the patient.

Practice Question

A patient has just received physical therapy when a family member arrives to visit. The patient appears tired.
Best Response?

a. Inform the family member that the patient needs to rest
b. Ask the patient whether she wants to have a visitor now
c. Make the patient comfortable in bed while she visits with her family
d. Ask the family member if he can come back to visit in one hour

Provision 4

The nurse is responsible and accountable for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse’s obligation to provide optimum patient care

Provision 5

The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence, and to continue personal and professional growth

Practice Question

A new graduate has just completed orientation and is assigned a fresh post-op liver transplant patient. You are having a hard time getting the patient’s PA catheter to wedge. The Resident on night shift is clueless. The Charge Nurse is assisting with a code on the unit.

Best Response?

a. Review your references for troubleshooting strategies
b. Tell the physician you are not able to get the PA reading, but will call her when you have the results. Consult with the experienced nurses on your unit, and page your CNS or educator for assistance and recommendations as needed
c. With balloon open, withdraw the PA cath 2 cm
Provision 6

The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving health care environments and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality health care and consistent with the values of the profession through individual and collective action.

An Ethical Work Environment

- Collaborative practice relationships
- Compassionate and respectful interactions with students, mentoring, role modeling
- Shared governance
- Freedom to openly advocate for yourself and your patient without fear of retribution
- A safe work environment

Practice Question

Ellen has been a nurse in Transplant for 6 years. She has observed a high rate of readmissions to the unit (and sometimes the ICU) for infections and/or sepsis.

Best Response?

a. Voice your suspicion that the surgeons have faulty surgical technique, contributing to the problem
b. Look at your own practice to identify areas for improvement with patient education and aseptic technique with procedures
c. Collaborate with your unit CNS and other disciplines (Physicians, Pharmacists, Mid-Level providers) to study the issue by performing a literature review, compare rates to national statistics, and identify opportunities for improvement

Clinical Inquiry

Advocacy-Moral Agency

Caring Practices

Provision 7

The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contribution to practice, education administration and knowledge development.

Provision 8

The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national, and international efforts to meet health needs.
Practice Question

As an ICU nurse for 10 years, Lisa was often distressed over the lack of Advanced Care Planning and family’s apparent ignorance of their loved ones wishes in regard to end of life care.

Best Response?

a. Lisa went out often after work with her friends and cried in her beer
b. Lisa spoke with her own family and friends about her personal wishes if she had a terminal condition, and asked her sister to act as her DPOAH
b. Lisa volunteered with the local community Hospice organization to speak to church groups and health forums about the importance of advance care planning and speaking with your immediate family about your preferences in the event end of life decisions are required

Provision 9

The profession of nursing, as represented by associations and other members, is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy.

Professional Practice

• Professional organization membership
• ANA Code of Ethics & Social Policy Statement
• Political Action
• Certification!!

TRUE or FALSE?

• The nurses’ own values and beliefs will not affect their sensitivities with their patients
• Pain is influenced by culture
• Race is not a factor in drug absorption and action
• It is never appropriate for a nurse to pray with a patient; the nurse should call the Chaplain

• Decisions concerning medical care should be made by the physician alone
• Physical care should always take precedence over psychological and spiritual care
• Inability to speak English is an indication of ignorance
Practice Questions

Six members of a trauma patient’s family arrive asking questions about their loved one’s condition. The nurse’s most appropriate initial response should be to:

a. Ensure that the Chaplain is available
b. Include the family in patient care
c. Offer the family a tour of the unit
d. Ask the family to identify a family spokesperson

Caring Practices…Advocacy-Moral Agency…Response to Diversity

Practice Questions

A patient who does not speak or understand English has just undergone an aortic valve replacement. The patient is increasingly restless and splinting the chest with both hands. An effective means of communication with this patient would be by:

Facilitator of Learning…Advocacy-Moral Agency…Caring Practices…Response to Diversity

Practice Questions

Most Important Family Needs

• Questions answered honestly
• Be assured that the best care possible is being given to the patient
• Know the prognosis
• Feel there is hope
• Know specific facts about the patient’s progress

Facilitator of Learning…Advocacy-Moral Agency…Caring Practices…Response to Diversity

Practice Questions

• Called at home about changes in patient’s condition
• Know how the patient is being treated medically
• Feel that hospital personnel care about the patient
• Receive information about the patient daily

Facilitator of Learning…Advocacy-Moral Agency…Caring Practices…Response to Diversity

Practice Questions

Most Important Family Needs

• Have understandable explanations
• Know exactly what is being done for the patient
• Know why things were done for the patient
• Know why things were done for the patient

Facilitator of Learning…Advocacy-Moral Agency…Caring Practices…Response to Diversity
Most Important Family Needs

- See the patient frequently
- Talk to the doctor every day
- Be told about transfer plans

BEST WISHES

Good Luck!!

STUDY HARD

buddy up it'll be so worth it

the first step is the hardest…
and you’re past that!

References