

Healthcare Ethics

Student's Name

Course Number (ORG500) – Name of Course (Foundations of Effective Management)

Healthcare Ethics

Using Healthcare Ethics to Inform Critical Thinking in Decision Making and Problem Solving in Professional Life

My understanding of healthcare ethics is that all the activities that I undertake should be geared towards recovery and healing of the patient. This means that my interaction with the patient, their family, other medics and the rest of the hospital employees should put the patient's needs and preferences first (Benner, 2008). This explains why I have to make sacrifices and create opportunity costs in order to maximize on the wellbeing of the patient. At work, problem-solving and critical thinking are not hard processes for me since what I do is separate actions between right and wrong. Anything that maximizes the good of the patient is right while that is likely to undermine their wellbeing is wrong. Therefore, in critical thinking and decision-making, I evaluate the existing choices based on utilitarianism that is geared towards the wellbeing of the patient. The main goals towards which my decisions tend to are rights of the patients, their dignity and promoting professionalism.

Moral Integrity and Ethical Behavior

Observance of both moral integrity and ethical behavior can be exhibited through positive conduct that promotes fairness, equity and uphold honesty in daily activities. However, there are also slight differences between these two. For moral integrity, an individual should make a choice at the personal level to carry themselves according to specific ethical and moral standards set by themselves and not another person (Britt, 2013). This means that there are rarely other parties involved in deciding how one should conduct their activities. On the other hand, ethical

behavior is usually set and judged using definitions that are set by a social unit such as an institution, a family, a community or a workplace. While the decision to uphold integrity is made by a person, ethical principles that guide and define ethical behavior usually develop within a group either intentionally or unintentionally. In healthcare most of the norms defined as ethical are usually recommended by professional groups and employers (Britt, 2013).

The Most Important Elements of Personal and Professional Etiquette That I Employ in My Professional Life

The first ethical element that guides my professional life is non-maleficence. I became a nurse because of my passion to save lives and this means that I have to align my activities to this goal. Non-maleficence means not causing harm. I therefore ensure I handle all patients with care and utilize my knowledge and experience to keep them safe from any harm. I also employ beneficence and etiquette in my work. These two go together in ensuring that the patient is at the center of all the activities that I undertake. This may sometimes counter my efforts to ensure that I make independent decisions in line with the professional and ethical standards in my field of practice. In applying autonomy, I honor the right of the patient to making their own decisions. In applying beneficence, I ensure that I help the patient in advancing their own good. I also ensure that I apply justice in my practice. In pursuit for this, I ensure that all the cases that I handle are treated according to their needs in a manner that meets the recommended professional standards (Butts, 2008).

Strengths and Weaknesses in Communication in Professional Life

The first strength that I possess is the ability to collect information. In my profession, I have to deal with various groups that may require similar information but for different purpose. This means that facts have to be collected and framed the most appropriate form for each group. Most of the organizations that I have come in contact with require that the nurse be at the center of the communication chain that links the patient, other medics and their families. In this regard, the main source of information is the patient. I have to understand the situation of the patient either by talking to them or merely observing them and be able to discern their needs, strengths and weaknesses. I am good at collecting information because I usually undertake a thorough study of the patient and the conditions around them before I can communicate since the success of the communication process is first determined by the appropriateness and accuracy of the information being passed (Benner, 2008). Once this is done, I establish the best channels to use to reach the stakeholders entitled to the information that I need. This also applies to other areas of my career such as communicating to my bosses about my welfare and input to be used in improving the services offered by the facility.

Strategies Employed to Ensure That I Stay On-Task and On-Time in my Professional Life

The first strategy that has helped me stay on-task is setting of career goals. I have come up with various milestones that I use to gauge whether my career is growing or not. This helps me set priorities and focus on what I am required do by both my employer and the professional standards set by various bodies. For instance, anticipation that my employer will promote me helps me focus and start playing the anticipated role and I believe this focus is what makes me grow. The first step in managing professional goals is coming up with priorities based on what one desires to achieve (Nelson, 2010). I bring in my family members and colleagues to help me

manage professional goals. I break down my professional goals into milestones and share with these people and they remind me every time my activities don't seem to reflect my focus on the goals.

References

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