



EP13 – Ethics, Privacy, Security, and Confidentiality

EP13: Provide one example, with supporting evidence, of nurses using available resources to address ethical issues related to clinical practice.

Example: Nurses Utilize the Professional Practice Model, the Nursing Ethics Sub-Council, and the Clinical Ethics Committee to Address an Ethical Issue Related to Patient’s Right to Diagnosis Information

Ethical Support Structure Within the Organization

Nurses face a multitude of ethical dilemmas every day where there are no clear right or wrong answers in healthcare delivery. Internationally, there is a debate about whether there is a universal set of ethical principles applicable to all cultures, whether culture defines ethical principles, or whether there is a specific set of principles that can be modified to fit a cultural context. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), a culturally diverse nursing team and patient population bring multiple cultural perspectives on ethical principles.

KFSHRC-J Nursing Affairs identified the fundamental need to create and develop a Nursing Code of Ethics, and an educational resource guide for nurses, to help deal with ethical issues during the provision of care of the patient population. New knowledge of Western and Islamic bioethical frameworks guided the establishment of the “Ethical Conduct and Behavior” Framework for nurses, as reflected in the Nursing Practice Plan (2022). This framework, the use of the Nursing Ethics Sub-Council, the Hospital Ethics Committee, and the Crescent of Care Model (Lovering, 2014), guides decision-making on how to provide culturally sensitive care to the unique Arab Muslim patient population in KSA.

The Nursing Ethics Sub-Council is a Central Council within the Nursing Professional Practice Model, which acts as the expert resource to the Nurse Executive Council to advise on matters related to meeting the ethical and cultural needs of patients, families, and healthcare professionals within Nursing Affairs, see Figure EP13-1. The Chair of the Nursing Ethics Sub-Council is a member of the interprofessional Clinical Ethics Committee.

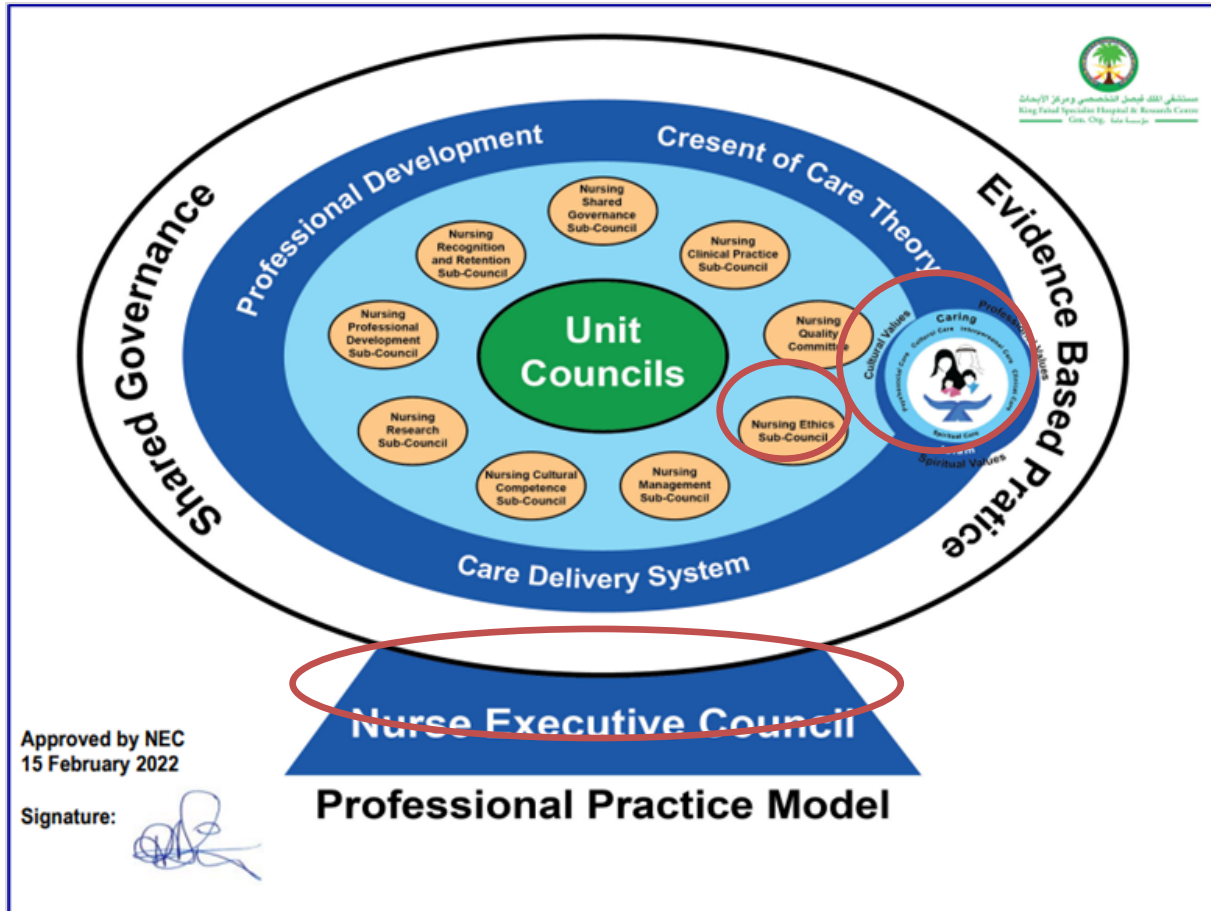


Figure EP13.1: The Professional Practice Model

Expectations of Ethical Conduct and Behavior for Nursing Affairs

All nurses must acknowledge the Ethical Conduct and Behavior form from Nursing Affairs as part of their orientation to the organization. The Nursing Ethics Sub-Council encourages nurses to refer cases of ethical or cultural dilemmas for discussion and assistance in resolution to the council. In addition, all practitioners registered with the Saudi Commission for Healthcare Specialties are expected to abide by its code of ethics.

Nurses Use the Nursing Ethics Sub-Council and Clinical Ethics Committee to Address an Ethical Concern Related to Disclosure of Patient Diagnosis Information

On June 24, 2019, Nada Turkestani, RN, BSN, Staff Nurse 1, Adult Oncology Unit, disclosed an incident to the Nursing Ethics Sub-Council. The family of a patient diagnosed with colon cancer strongly requested that the nurse not disclose the cancer diagnosis to the patient and not divulge that they were administering chemotherapy, but instead say it was antibiotics.

The ethical issue was the dilemma of release of information to the patient against the wishes of the family.

The Nursing Ethics Sub-Council members discussed the case. They decided to review how it fits into the organizational process of informed consent and related policies and procedures for patients' right to information. **Evidence EP13.1 Nursing Ethics Sub-Council Minutes of Meeting 24 June 2019**

Ethical Dilemma Resolution Process

On September 16, 2019, the interdisciplinary Clinical Ethics Committee met to review the possibility of amending the Patient Bill of Rights (Clinical Internal Policy and Procedure (CIPP)-3556). The concern was that KFSHRC-J were not meeting Joint Commission standards (Joint Commission International, 2017) of disclosure of patient condition by including the following statement in the Patient Bill of Rights:

“To have the right not to wish to have a diagnosis shared with family, or the family may not want the patient to know his or her diagnosis.”

Rosemary Lawrence, MSN RN, CCRN, OTRN, CRNI, ICM, PSYCM, CMSRN, CCNE, Acting Education Coordinator, Nursing Development and Saudization, Chair Nursing Ethics Sub-Council, provided the recent example from the Oncology unit discussed in the Nursing Ethics Sub-Council to illustrate this dilemma.

After a discussion of other case examples and with a review of the ethical principles and intent of the standard as described in the Patient Bill of Rights, the members of the Clinical Ethics Committee agreed that the statement on the Patient Bill of Rights was unacceptable, and recommended to have it removed. **Evidence EP13.2 Clinical Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes 16 September 2019**

Table EP13.1 below presents the participants involved for resolution of the ethical dilemma.

Table EP13.1: Participants Involved in Resolving Ethical Dilemma: *Patient's Right to Information*

Name & Credentials	Job Title	Department
Rosemary Lawrence, MSN RN, CCRN, OTRN, CRNI, ICM, PSYCM, CMSRN, CCNE	Acting Education Coordinator Nursing Ethics Sub-Council Chair Clinical Ethics Committee Member	Nursing Development and Saudization
Edward Cupler, M.D.	Executive Director	Research Center

	Clinical Ethics Committee Chair	
Ghada Alsarraf	Head	Experience Office
Meead Aldalbahy, BSN RN	Staff Nurse 1 Clinical Nurse Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Department of Emergency
Moira Abrahams, BSN RN	Head Nurse Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Hemodialysis Unit
Nada Turkestani, BSN RN	Nurse Clinician Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Oncology
Nadia Aslam	Clinical Dietician Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Nutrition Services
Hind Saeed	Ward Clerk Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Nursing Affairs
Afaf Saleh, BSN RN	Nurse Clinician Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	OB/GYN
Dania Jan	Medical Technologist Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Shaima Makki, BSN RN	Staff Nurse 1 Clinical Nurse Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Day Procedure Unit
Amani Sindi, BSN RN	Clinical Specialist Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Oncology
Aziza Alhamdan, BSN RN	Nurse Clinician Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Pediatric
Amal Jameel, BSN RN	Staff Nurse 1 Clinical Nurse Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Department of Emergency
Amnah Memesh, BSN RN	Staff Nurse 1 Clinical Nurse Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Department of Emergency
Razan Baajlan, BSN RN	Staff Nurse 1 Clinical Nurse Nursing Ethics Sub-Council	Nurse Transition to Practice Program, Nursing Development and Saudization

Shorouq Zakariya	Director Clinical Ethics Committee Member	Quality Management
Khalid Alghamdi, M.D.	Consultant Clinical Ethics Committee Member	Critical Care Section
Belal Sharaf, M.D.	Consultant, Palliative Medicine Clinical Ethics Committee Member	Oncology Department
Parwaiz Khalid, PhD	Director Clinical Ethics Committee Member	Clinical Services Division
Bassim Albeirouti, M.D.	Consultant, Adult Hematology & Stem Cell Transplantation Clinical Ethics Committee Member	Oncology Department
Areej Bushnag, M.D.	Consultant, Neurology Clinical Ethics Committee Member	Neurosciences Department

Outcome

By utilizing the structures and processes within KFSHRC-J, a resolution was made in the form of removal of the following statement from the Patient Bill of Rights:

“To have the right not to wish to have a diagnosis shared with family, or the family may not want the patient to know his or her diagnosis.”

On December 12, 2020 the KFSHRC-J Patient Bill of Rights was updated to include the following statement **Evidence EP13.3 Patient Bill of Rights Policy**:

“To identify who they consider to be their Care-Partner and be allowed to have them involved in their care.”

References

Joint Commission International. (2017). Joint Commission International Accreditation Standards for Hospitals. 6th Edition. <http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org>.

Lovering, S. (2014). The Crescent of Care: a nursing model to guide the care of Arab Muslim patients. *Diversity and Equity in Health and Care*, 9:171-8. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265547331_The_Crescent_of_Care_a_nursing_model_to_guide_the_care_of_Arab_Muslim_patients