



## **Ethics in Health Care Practice – from a Nurse Perspective**

*Mary Thibeault, Manager of Learning and Development, IWK Health Centre, Halifax, NS*

The following discussion questions are provided as an additional educational tool to accompany this fireside chat video. Please feel free to select the questions that are most relevant to your committee or group, revise and adapt them as needed, etc. As always, we welcome feedback on this or any other NSHEN resource.

### **Questions:**

- What stood out the most to you in this interview and why?
- Why should nurses and other health care providers reflect on their own values and biases?
- Moral distress is often experienced by nurses. Why do you think that is the case?
- Mary mentions that nurses aren't always well-equipped with the language to describe their experiences from a moral perspective.
  - Do you agree? Why/why not?
  - In your opinion, how might the ability to identify and articulate experiences as ethical concerns or as moral distress help nurses in addressing ethical issues in the clinical setting?
- The exposure to stress and trauma on daily basis has an impact on health care professionals. In your opinion, what type of organizational structures are needed to better support nurses in their work?
- Besides ethics support, what can health care organizations do to support nurses and other health care providers who are faced with ethical dilemmas in their work?
- The Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses (2017) mention that nurses have an ethical responsibility to advocate on behalf of individual persons or on specific issues with a view to promote equity in health care (page 5). Identify and discuss specific concerns that nurses might have around being the advocate for a specific patient's care needs or for the health care approach taken by the health care team.

### **Resources**

Canadian Nurses Association. (2017). *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses*. 2017 edition.  
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Regulatory Policy Department of the Canadian Nurses Association (CAN). (2010). *Ethics, Relationships and Quality Practice Environments*. [https://www.cna-aiic.ca/~media/cna/page-content/pdf-en/ethics\\_in\\_practice\\_jan\\_2010\\_e.pdf](https://www.cna-aiic.ca/~media/cna/page-content/pdf-en/ethics_in_practice_jan_2010_e.pdf)

Stacey, G., Johnston, K., Stickley, T. (2019). How do nurses cope when values and practice conflict? *Nursing Times*, February 7, 2011 [accessed on December 19, 2019] <https://www.nursingtimes.net/roles/mental-health-nurses/how-do-nurses-cope-when-values-and-practice-conflict-07-02-2011/>

Some articles require access with an institutional login. If you need assistance in accessing an article please email NSHEN administrator Krista Mleczko-Skerry at [Krista.MleczkoSkerry@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:Krista.MleczkoSkerry@iwk.nshealth.ca)