

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312106563>

Ethical Frameworks for Decision-Making in Nursing Practice and Research: An Integrative Literature Review

Article · January 2009

DOI: 10.13178/jnparr.2017.0701.0707

CITATIONS

5

READS

3,630

2 authors:



Mary Grace Mallari

Chamberlain College of Nursing

1 PUBLICATION 5 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



Joseph Tariman

DePaul University

96 PUBLICATIONS 808 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



Cancer-related Fatigue [View project](#)



Development and Testing of a New Shared Decision Making Scale for Nurses [View project](#)



Ethical Frameworks for Decision-Making in Nursing Practice and Research: An Integrative Literature Review

Mary Grace D. Mallari and Joseph D. Tariman

Accepted for publication

<https://doi.org/10.13178/jnparr.2017.0701.0707>

Correspondence to:
Joseph D. Tariman
jtariman@depaul.edu

Author's Affiliation

Mary Grace D. Mallari, MSN, RN
Graduate, MSN Program

Joseph D. Tariman, PhD, RN,
ANP-BC, FAAN
Assistant Professor, Nursing

DePaul University
Chicago, IL

Funding

The authors did not receive a grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Abstract

Nurses are faced with ethical dilemmas in clinical practice and research. Nurses also face many ethical dilemmas relative to their different roles and responsibilities as providers, clinicians, researchers, public health specialists, administrators, patient advocates, and health policy analysts. The purpose of this study is to synthesize the ethical frameworks for decision-making in contemporary nursing practice and research. A systematic, computer-based literature and ancestry searches were conducted to retrieve articles from 1980 to 2015. The data were collected from articles that focused on ethical dilemmas and the ethical frameworks used to resolve them in nursing practice and research. The findings indicate that international and national code of ethics from professional nursing organizations around the world are the standard references for nurses to frame their ethical decisions in both nursing practice and research. Nursing research has many layers of codes, regulations, and laws, which provide nurses additional guidance and support in conducting research and making decisions involving complex, ethical, and research-related issues. The consistent use of ethical frameworks can lead to better patient care and outcomes.

Keywords: *Ethics, code of ethics, ethical frameworks, nursing practice, nursing research, professional issues*

Introduction

Nurses are faced with ethical dilemmas in clinical practice and research. Common ethical issues that nurses encounter in contemporary nursing practice and research include but not limited to: refusal of treatment, scarcity of resources, disagreement with caregivers, treating patients with impaired decision-making, futile treatment decisions for patients with terminal diagnosis, end-of-life decisions, advanced treatment directives, assisted suicide, euthanasia and controversial high tech interventions (Leuter, Petrucci, Mattei, Tabassi, & Lancia, 2013; Sanderson, 2014). Nurses deal with these dilemmas as providers, clinicians, researchers, public health specialists, administrators, patient advocates, or health policy analysts (Rajaram, 2008).

The public has voted nurses as the most ethical and honest professionals in America for the past twelve years. According to the Gallup Poll's 2013 annual survey, 82 percent of Americans rated nurses' honesty and ethical standards as "very high" with full 12 percentage points above any other profession (Gallup Incorporated, 2014). To keep this public trust at an all time high, it is imperative that nurses participate both in clinical and non-clinical decision-making using ethical framework that guides them in making the right decisions.

Ethics is one of the important pillars in the foundation of nursing practice. For over a century, nurses have identified many ethical issues in practice and developed strategies to overcome these issues using the nursing code of ethics (Badzek, 2008). The history of nursing is embedded with the concern for the welfare of the sick, injured, and vulnerable persons in our society (American Nurses Association, 2015). The profession of organized nursing promotes expectations for nurses to adhere to the ideals and ethical norms of the profession. These ideals and norms constitute the heart of nursing. In essence, the practice of nursing is inherently a practice of ethics and ethical decision-making. The purpose of this integrative literature review is to synthesize the extant ethical frameworks for decision-making in contemporary nursing practice and research.

Method

Design

The updated methodology described by Whittemore and Knaf (2005) was used to conduct this integrative literature review. Quantitative, qualitative and explorative studies, as well as theoretical articles were all considered. The research questions focused on what are the ethical frameworks for various ethical dilemmas in contemporary nursing practice and research. Then, a systematic literature search was completed, followed by data analysis and synthesis.

A systematic, computer-based literature search was con-

ducted. PubMed searches were executed using medical subject heading (MeSH) terms, code of ethics, nursing practice, and research. CINAHL Complete and PsycINFO search was also performed using the same search terms as above. All titles and abstract were read and full text articles were obtained if they met the following criteria: ethical dilemmas were discussed, and the ethical framework(s) used were relevant to nursing practice or research. Additional articles were obtained using the ancestry approach or footnote chasing (additional article retrieval after reading the full text articles and their citations). Figure 1 illustrates the database search process.

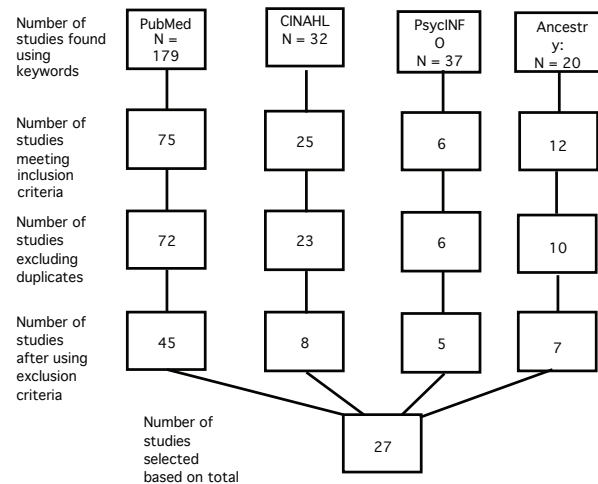


Figure 1 Diagram of Literature Search Process and Outcome

Analysis

The five steps of data analysis by Whittemore and Knaf (2005) were followed: data reduction, data display, data comparison, conclusion drawing, and verification. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 18 was used to manage, categorize, and synthesize nominal and categorical data. Descriptive statistics produced tables with frequencies and bar graphs were utilized for enhanced graphic data display. During data comparison, nursing specialties were used to examine similarities or differences of various ethical frameworks to resolve ethical dilemmas in either nursing practice or research setting. During three scheduled monthly meetings, the authors of this study compared notes and verified similarities, differences, controversies surrounding ethical dilemmas and ethical frameworks used in various nursing specialties.

Results

Ethical Frameworks in Nursing Practice

A total of 27 peer-reviewed articles met the criteria. Ethical frameworks used included the Dignity Enhancing Care Framework (Gastmans, 2013), SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) (Parker & McMillan, 2010), Trust Approach for Nursing Ethics (Peter

& Morgan, 2001), International and National Professional Nursing Associations Code of Ethics (Aitamaa, Leino-Kilpi, Puukka, & Suhonen, 2010; American Nursing Association, 2003; Beck, Miller, & Adams, 1993; Dugas, 2005; Izumi, Nagae, Sakurai, & Imamura, 2012; Lin et al., 2007; Sawyer, 1989; Zahedi et al., 2013), Greipp's Model of Ethical Decision Making (Greipp, 1992), Markkula Center Framework for Ethical Decision Making (Velasquez et al., 2009), and Environmental Model of Clinical Decision Making in emergency settings (Wolf, 2013). Ethical principles and values guiding nursing practice included the Compassion and Advocacy model (Breier-Mackie, 2008), Autonomy and Advocacy model in perinatal nursing practice (Simmonds, 2008), and Sanctity of Life and Quality of Life model (Sizemore, 2006).

Ethical Frameworks in Nursing Research

There are eleven ethical frameworks/models or values that were developed and used in nursing research, namely the International and National Code of Ethics from professional nursing organizations (Arraf, Cox, & Oberle, 2004; Eide & Kahn, 2008; Peter, 2006; Rogero-Anaya, Carpintero-Avelaneda, & Vila-Blasco, 1994), Nuremberg Code (Rogero-Anaya et al., 1994; Wang & Huch, 2000), Declaration of Human Rights (Rogero-Anaya et al., 1994), Declaration of Helsinki (Rogero-Anaya et al., 1994; Wang & Huch, 2000), Deontological Code (Rogero-Anaya et al., 1994), Swanson's Nursing Caring Theory (Swanson, 1991), ANA's Ethical Guidelines in the Conduct, Dissemination and Implementation of Nursing Research (Peter, 2006). Ethical standards derived from the Nuremberg Code and Declaration of Helsinki addressed social, scientific and clinical value; scientific validity; fair subject selection; favorable risk-benefit ratio; independent review; informed consent; and respect for research participants (Peter, 2006). The ethical principles relating to respect for persons, beneficence and justice were frequently cited (Cartwright & Hickman, 2007). Compliance with specific federal regulations, state laws, and facility bill of rights (Cartwright & Hickman, 2007) were addressed. According to Wang and Huch (2000), human subjects are protected

in the United States through the National Research Act and the US Code of Federal Regulation, Title 45 Public Welfare, Part 46 Protection of Human Subjects from which Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) are established. State and federal regulations were frequently cited as the ethical and legal frameworks for protection of human subjects.

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Ethical Frameworks Used in Nursing Practice and Research

Ethical Frameworks	Frequency	Cumulative Percent
International & National Code of Ethics for Nurses	12	38.7
Declaration of Helsinki	2	45.2
Nuremberg Code	2	51.6
Markkula Center Framework for Ethical Decision Making	1	54.8
National Research Act	1	58.1
ANA's Ethical Guidelines for Nursing Research	1	61.3
Federal, State, Facility Bill of Rights	1	64.5
Respect for Person, Beneficence and Justice	1	67.7
Nursing Caring Theory by Swanson	1	71.0
Deontological Code	1	74.2
Declaration of Human Rights	1	77.4
Autonomy and Advocacy Model	1	80.6
Compassion and Advocacy Model	1	83.9
ER Environmental Model	1	87.1
Greipp's Model of Ethical Decision Making	1	90.3
Trust Approach to Nursing Ethics	1	93.5
SBAR	1	96.8
Dignity Enhancing Framework	1	100.0

Synthesis

The integrative review revealed 18 ethical frameworks in contemporary nursing practice and research. The International and National Nursing Code of Ethics was the most frequently used ethical framework (see Table 1) by both nurses in practice. The International Code of Ethics for Nurses has been the model for the development and evaluation of various countries' code of ethics (Sawyer, 1989). The national code of ethics for individual country provides nurses with ethical guide based on the country's culture and moral norms (Zahedi et al., 2013). Table 1 gives a

Table 2. Ethical Dilemmas and Frameworks Used by Various Nursing Specialties

Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing Practice	Ethical Frameworks Used for Resolution	Nursing Specialty
End of life care	Code of Ethics (Izumi et al., 2012)	Palliative Nursing Hospice Nursing
Discharge planning	Code of Ethics (Beck et al., 1993)	Nursing Case Management
Life support	Ethical Values: Sanctity and Quality of Life (Sizemore, 2006)	Critical Care Nursing
Experiences of childbearing women and their nurses during labor and birth	Patient Autonomy (Simmonds, 2008) Patient Advocacy (Simmonds, 2008)	Perinatal Nursing
Allocation of resources	Code of Ethics (Aitamaa et al., 2010; Musa, Harun-Or-Rashid, & Sakamoto, 2011)	Nursing Management
Providing and developing high quality care	Code of Ethics (Aitamaa et al., 2010; Musa et al., 2011)	Nursing Management
Genetic testing and research	Code of Ethics (Dugas, 2005)	Nursing Genetics
Futile cancer treatment decisions	Patient Autonomy and Advocacy (Breier-Mackie, 2008)	Hematology-Oncology Nursing

Table 3. Ethical Frameworks Used in Nursing Practice

Author (year)	Study Purpose	Method	Ethical Frameworks for Nursing Practice
Gastmans (2013)	To identify and explore three key concepts: vulnerability, care and dignity – that must be observed in an ethical approach in nursing.	Outline of the general philosophical–ethical background of the framework of Dignity Enhancing care.	Dignity enhancing care framework based on three aspects: lived experience, interpretative dialogue and normative standard.
Parker and McMillan (2010)	To facilitate ethical decision making, a practical reasonable solution may be utilizing a communication tool: SBAR	Case Study	SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) - Nurses should be prepared to sit at the head of the table and spearhead the process of ethical decision-making.
Peter and Morgan (2001)	To explore how a trust approach could help inform future developments in nursing ethics.	Study describes Baier's work on trust in feminist ethics and demonstrate the relevance of Baier's work for an ethic of trust for nursing.	Baier (1986) has defined 'trust' as the 'reliance on others' competence and willingness to look after, rather than harm, things one cares about which are entrusted to their care.' This is a seminal work on the ethic of trust for nursing.
American Nursing Association (2003)	To state the ethical obligations and duties of every individual who enters the nursing profession.	It is the profession's nonnegotiable ethical standard and an expression of nursing's own understanding of its commitment to society.	American Nurses Association Code of Ethics Provision 1 – The nurse in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes or nature of health problems. 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. 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. Provision 6 – The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving healthcare environments and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality healthcare and consistent with the values of the profession through individual and collective action. Provision 7 – The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contributions to practice, education, administration and knowledge development. Provision 8 – The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public promoting community, national and international efforts to meet health needs. Provision 9 – the profession of nursing, as represented by associations and their members is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy.
Breier-Mackie (2008)	To point out the importance of the nurse's voice in ethical decision-making process.		The guiding principles for nurses in ethical decision making include compassion and advocacy. Nursing advocacy establishes a unique and invaluable contribution of nurses to the clinical ethics decision-making process.
Greipp (1992)	To illustrate a model of ethical decision making highlighting the interaction between the nurse and client.	The study employed quantitative descriptive correlational design using a purposive sample of 200 emergency nurses. The study measured variables were accuracy in clinical decision-making, moral reasoning, perceived care environment, and demographics.	The underlying assumptions of Greipp's model of ethical decision making are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ All clients share a need for basic health care. □ Nurses act as 'data analyst/decision maker' on basis. □ All nurses practice within a code of ethics. □ Decision making is a complex process subject to variations imposed by people, situations and environment.
Velasquez et al. (2009)	To provide the public an introduction how to think ethically.	Framework for ethical decision-making is the product of dialogue and debate at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University.	Framework for Ethical Decision Making: 1 – Recognize an ethical issue 2 – Get the facts 3 – Evaluate alternative actions 4 – Make a decision and test it 5 – Act and reflect on the outcome
Wolf (2013)	To explore the relationship between multiple variables within a model of critical thinking and moral reasoning.	A quantitative descriptive correlational design using a purposive sample of 200 emergency nurses. Measured variables were accuracy in clinical decision-making, moral reasoning, perceived care environment, and demographics.	An integrated, ethically driven environmental model of clinical decision making in emergency settings. The elements as identified in the integrated ethically driven environmental model of clinical decision-making (IEDEM-CD) depict moral reasoning and environment of care as factors significantly affecting accuracy in decision-making.
Mahon (2010)	The purpose of this article is to describe processes of clinical decision making, to identify a range of factors that affect decision-making, and to explore three landmark cases that led to decision-making guidelines being accepted in the twenty-first century.	Several important and landmark cases were outlined and discussed how the decision was made: 1. Karen Ann Quinlan 2. Nancy Cruzan 3. Terri Schiavo	Principles of withdrawing and withholding life-prolonging therapies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ There is no difference between withdrawing and withholding a life-prolonging therapy. □ Providers should never start a therapy that they are not willing to discontinue. □ The goals of care both for a specific therapy and for the patient overall care should be specified. □ Medical indications should be considered first when determining clinical options. □ If the efficacy of a particular therapy is unknown, a trial of that therapy is often reasonable. □ Though specific therapies may be withdrawn, the patient care should be uninterrupted, often with aggressive attention to symptom management. □ There is a tremendous difference between allowing a death and causing a death.
Simmonds (2008)	To provide a framework for exploring the ways in which patient autonomy, advocacy and choice, are experienced by childbearing women and their nurses during labor and birth.	Feminist ethics perspective is used to examine how moral responsibilities are enacted in the perinatal nurse–patient relationship and to explore the interaction between the various threads that influence, and are in turn affected by, this relationship.	Autonomy and advocacy in perinatal nursing practice. A feminist ethics lens focuses on the interdependent, unequal, and emotionally charged relationships that shape relatedness, and includes a political perspective that attempts to uncover the patterns of dominance and oppression that shape these interactions.
Sizemore (2006)	To provide a framework using two values that are essential to decisions about life support, the sanctity of life, and quality of life to assist critical care nurses	The study uses a case study wherein the reader puts him/herself in the scenario.	Separating medical and ethical issues: helping families determine the best interests of loved ones. Careful consideration of Sanctity of Life (advantages and disadvantages) and Quality of Life (advantages and disadvantages).

breakdown of categories of ethical codes, principles and values, and the frequency by which these were used in the articles.

Table 2 presents the ethical dilemmas in nursing practice, the ethical frameworks considered for resolution of ethical dilemmas, and the nursing specialty involved with specific ethical dilemma. These ethical dilemmas are of significant interest to nurses because of their direct involvement as clinicians in ethically difficult situations. It is critical that nurses voice their opinions and serve as advocate of their patients. Table 2 shows ethical dilemmas nurses in different nursing specialties confront and the ethical framework they use. Nursing specialty organizations should continue to study the ethical dilemmas that nurses encounter in practice and research and issue position statements and guidelines for dealing with them. For example, the Oncology Nursing Society published its position statement on assisted suicide (Oncology Nursing Society, 2011).

Not surprisingly, 12 out of 18 studies revealed dependence on international and national code of ethics promulgated by professional nursing organizations to guide and support nurses (Table 1). It is vital that international and national professional nursing organizations insure that their code of ethics remain current with the advancements in technology and scientific knowledge and relevant to emerging moral issues in nursing practice and research. Table 3 lists the specific studies on nursing practice and the ethical framework used. It is particularly useful in determining outcomes of ethical practice. Table 4 lists the specific studies focusing on ethical frameworks specific to nursing research. Both tables provide evidence-based applications of ethical framework relevant to

Zahedi et al. (2013)	To provide a national fundamental code of ethics for the nursing profession with a culturally-adaptable guidance to help them make ethical decisions that are more aligned to the Iranian-Islamic background.	Researchers from Ethics Group of the Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Center (EMRC) of Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) in 2009 compiled the National Code of Ethics for Nurses, which included a wide search of international and national codes of ethics for nurses in other countries.	The Code of Ethics for Nurses in Islamic Republic of Iran include the following values and principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respecting the patient/client and preserving human dignity - Altruism and sympathy - Devotion to professional obligations - Accountability, responsibility, and conscience - Justice in services - Commitment to honesty and loyalty - Maintaining patient's privacy and commitment to confidentiality and trust - Continuous improvement of scientific and practical competence - Promote the awareness of professional rules and ethical guidelines and respecting them - Mutual respect and appropriate communication with other health care providers - Respecting autonomy of the patient/client - Compassion and kindness
Aitamoa et al. (2010)	To identify the ethical problems that nurse managers encounter in their work and the role of code of ethics in the solutions to these difficulties.	The data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analyzed statistically. The target sample included all nurse managers in 21 specialized health care or primary health care organizations in two hospital districts in Finland.	The most common ethical problems among nurse managers concerned about resource allocation and providing/developing high quality care.
Dugas (2005)	To illustrate how ANA Code of Ethics can be applied in nursing practice to establish professional behaviors related to ethical issues and genetics.	The ANA Code of Ethics is applied to the many complexities of ethical issues involving genetics and health care.	Application of the ANA Code of Ethics in Genetics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature of health problems - Right to self-determination - Relationship with colleagues and others - Primacy of patient's interests - Collaboration - Privacy and confidentiality - Protection of participants in research - Standards and review mechanisms - Acceptance of accountability and responsibility - Professional growth and maintenance of competency - Influence of the environment - Leadership and policy - Professional standards - Knowledge development - Health needs and concerns - Responsibilities to the public - Assertion of values - Professional associations - Social reform
Sawyer (1989)	To provide a worldwide search for a code of ethics to provide guidelines for professional practice.	Questionnaire was sent to 99 International Council of Nurses (ICN) member associations of which 38 responded to ascertain whether they have a code, use the ICN code, have an ethics committee and have ethical statements. Also analyzed the codes of ethics of 19 national and two international nurses associations.	The ICN Code of Ethics has been the model for the nursing profession worldwide. This code is a clear and concise statement of the norms of the profession. The study found that the ICN Code of Ethics can function as the international ethical standard to which nurses can refer when face with unethical scenarios. The weakness of the ICN Code of Ethics is its inherent lack of cultural sensitivity to represent the various societies and cultures of the world. ICN also have no authority to enforce the code of ethics to any country.
Lin et al. (2007)	To revise the code of ethics for nurses in Taiwan.	Citizen consensus conference, Delphi-technique, and questionnaire survey were used in the revision process. Three conferences for nursing professionals were conducted and questionnaire surveys were administered. The final draft was approved by the general assembly of Taiwan National Union of Nurses Associations.	Revised Code of Ethics for nurses in Taiwan includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundamental responsibilities of nurses - Nurses and clients - Nurses and professional services - Nurses and social interactions - Nurses and teamwork - Nurses and professional growth
Izumi et al. (2012)	To report examination of terms related to end-of-life care and define end-of-care from nursing ethics perspectives.	To use code of ethics for nurses as a framework to identify people to whom nurses are responsible to provide end-of-life care.	The ICN Code of Ethics recognizes that nurses are responsible in promoting health, preventing illness, restoring health, and alleviating pain and suffering.
Beck et al. (1993)	To be able to provide accountability in discharge planning.	Nine selected items from the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics were used to illustrate how the code can be utilized as an excellent resource for accountability with discharge planning.	ANA Code of Ethics that were identified as pertinent to discharge planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The nurse provides services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the client, unrestricted by conditions of social or economic status, personal attributes or the nature of health problems. - The nurse safeguards the client's right to privacy by judiciously protecting information of a confidential nature. - The nurse assumes responsibility and accountability for individual nursing judgments and actions. - The nurse maintains competence in nursing. - The nurse exercises informed judgment and uses individual competency and qualifications as criteria in seeking consultation, accepting responsibilities and delegating nursing activities. - The nurse participates in activities that contribute to the ongoing development of the profession's body of knowledge. - The nurse participates in the profession's efforts to implement and improve standards of nursing. - The nurse participates in the profession's efforts to establish and maintain conditions of employment conducive to high quality nursing care. - The nurse collaborates with members of the health professions and other citizens in promoting community and national efforts to meet the health needs of the public.
Shahriari et al. (2013)	To use ethical values as a framework for behavior assessment	A literature review was conducted based on the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination guidelines.	Ethical values identified include value for human dignity, privacy, justice, autonomy in decision making, precision and accuracy in caring, commitment, human relationship, sympathy, honesty, individual and professional competency.
Walker and Breitsameter (2014)	To identify what form the processes and degrees of latitude in decision-making take in practice when questions of ethical and ethically relevant nature arise.	Qualitative approach was used and data collection and evaluation was based on the methods of grounded theory.	A nurse's individual disposition in decision-making processes is restricted to the nurse's own style of administering care.
Musa et al. (2011)	To explore nurse manager's experience with ethical issues and learning about the way they	A cross-sectional study was conducted involving 417 nurse managers. Data were	Nurse managers regardless of areas of practice frequently experienced ethical issues. To deal with these issues they sought team approach and proper understanding of the code of ethics to provide basis for reasoning.

nursing practice and research. Table 4 is a resource for ethical frameworks guiding the conduct of nursing research and summarizes key international and US laws that ensure human subject protection.

Discussion

This integrative literature review study found that the International and National Code of Ethics for Nurses are the dominant models in ethical decision making in nursing practice and research. Both models have inherent weaknesses. First, the International Code of Ethics could not possibly represent the various cultures and societies of different countries as described by Sawyer (1989). Secondly, the enforcement of an ethical code is largely carried out by national nursing organization such as the American Nurses Association or the individual state's Board of Nursing, not by an international nursing organization such as the International Council of Nursing (ICN). Thus, nurses must understand the differences as well as similarities between international and national code of ethics and apply those that are context-specific to their practice (Dugas, 2005).

Nursing and medical sciences and technology are rapidly advancing. The code of ethics for nurses need to be responsive to emerging ethical dilemmas associated with changes in population, technology, and scientific knowledge. National professional nursing organizations should develop position statements and specific applications of guidelines to address complex ethical dilemmas in nursing practice and research.

Articles in nursing practice and research predominantly utilized the international and national code of ethics from professional nursing organizations. For nursing research, the Nuremberg Code, Declaration of Human Rights and Declaration of Helsinki were distinctly used when the study involved human subjects. In addition, emphasis was noted on compliance with specific federal and

and research. The consistent use of ethical frameworks can lead to better patient care and outcomes.

References

Aitamaa, E., Leino-Kilpi, H., Puukka, P., & Suhonen, R. (2010). Ethical problems in nursing management: The role of codes of ethics. *Nursing Ethics, 17*(4), 469-482. doi: 10.1177/0969733010364896

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2008). *The essentials of baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice*. Retrieved from <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/education-resources/BaccEssentials08.pdf>

American Nurses Association. (2015). *What is nursing?* Retrieved from <http://www.nursingworld.org/Especial-lyForYou/What-is-Nursing?css=print>

American Nursing Association. (2003). Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements. Provision 5. *Kansas Nurse, 78*(6), 9.

Arraf, K., Cox, G., & Oberle, K. (2004). Using the Canadian code of ethics for registered nurses to explore ethics in palliative care research. *Nurings Ethics, 11*(6), 600-609.

Badzek, L. (2008). Legacy and vision: The perspective of the American Nurses Association on nursing and health care ethics. In W. J. E. Pinch & A. M. Haddad (Eds.), *Nursing and health care ethics: A legacy and a vision* (pp. 3-6). Silver Spring, MD: American Nurses Association.

Beauchamp, T. L., & Childress, J. F. (2009). *Principles of biomedical ethics*. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press.

Beck, L., Miller, B. K., & Adams, D. (1993). Use of the code of ethics for accountability in discharge planning. *Nursing Forum, 28*(3), 5-12.

Bishop, A. H., & Scudder, J. R. (2008). The primacy of caring practice in nursing ethics. In W. J. E. Pinch & A. M. Haddad (Eds.), *Nursing and health care ethics: A Legacy and a vision*. Silver Spring, MD: American Nurses Association.

Breier-Mackie, S. (2008). What's your contribution to the clinical ethics process? *Nursing Management, 39*(2), 35-36, 42-33.

Cartwright, J. C., & Hickman, S. E. (2007). Conducting research in community-based care facilities: Ethical and regulatory implications. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing, 33*(10), 5-11.

Clarke, J. (1991). Moral dilemmas in nursing research. *Nursing Practice, 4*(4), 22-25.

Dugas, R. (2005). Nursing and genetics: Applying the American Nurses Association's Code of Ethics. *Journal of Professional Nursing, 21*(2), 103-113.

Table 4. Ethical Frameworks Used in Nursing Research

Author (year)	Study Purpose	Method	Ethical Frameworks for Nursing Research
Arraf et al. (2004)	To help nurse researchers to remain constantly vigilant to ensure that patients in palliative care research are protected from resultant harms.	The Canadian Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses' eight primary values were used to explore the moral dimensions of research with the palliative care population	Canadian Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe and competent ethical care - Health and well-being - Choice - full and informed consent for research participants - Dignity - nurses have an obligation to minimize patients suffering by limiting exposure to unwanted and unnecessary procedures. - Confidentiality - Justice - nurses must remain impartial when assisting participants to receive a fair share of health services and resources - Accountability - Quality practice environments
Rogero-Anaya et al. (1994)	To examine the ethical principles governing nurses' investigative activity.	The ethical principles a nurse has to bear in mind in research were analyzed with respect to patients, society and the profession.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nuremberg Code - Declaration of Human Rights - Declaration of Helsinki - International Nursing Association Code of Ethics - Deontological Code of Spanish Nursing
Eide and Kahn (2008)	To examine some of the controversies inherent in the researcher's dilemma.	The ethical dilemma is set within the context of a Caring theory by Swanson (1993) and the ICN Code of Ethics.	To address an ethical dilemma in the qualitative researcher-participant relationship, guidance on global nursing practice is sought from the ICN Code of Ethics and Caring theory (Swanson).
Peter (2006)	To describe current research ethical standards and discuss how they stand in relation to everyday practice of research.	The discussion is written in article form discussing the current research ethics standards as synthesized and articulated by Emanuel, Wendler, and Grady (2000).	<p>Research Ethics Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Societal, scientific and clinical value - Scientific validity - Fair subject selection - Favorable risk-benefit ratio - Independent review - Informed consent - Respect for potential and enrolled participants <p>Research ethics standards in terms of nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ANA's (1995) Ethical Guidelines in the Conduct, Dissemination, and Implementation of Nursing Research - Canadian Nurses Association's (2002) Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses.
Clark (1991)	To address the important issue of moral dilemmas which can arise in nursing research and to place emphasis on a greater understanding of ethical principles and codes of research.	Expert opinion on how important it is to protect human subjects from possible exploitation.	Two dangers during research were identified such as breach of confidentiality and not securing informed consent. To avoid such exploitation of human subjects, emphasis must be placed on greater understanding of ethical principles of research and codes of research.
Cartwright and Hickman (2007)	To understand how research is regulated and the influence that research might have when a facility provides access to researchers.	Interviews were held with 15 community-based care facility administrators.	The ethical conduct of research involves respect for person's autonomy, principles of beneficence and justice. Research personnel must comply with specific federal regulations, state laws and facility's Bill of Rights.
Wong and Huch (2000)	To explore ethical standards, their applications and challenges in protecting human subjects in an international arena.	A review article that discussed the cornerstones of ethical standards in the global community.	<p>Two prototypes that set international ethical standards for protecting human subjects in research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Nuremberg Code (1949) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voluntary consent of participants is required - The outcome should be focused on the good of society - Animal experimentation should precede any study of human responses - Humans are to be protected from possible harm - The research should not take place if it could result in human death or disability - The risk-benefit ratio must be carefully considered - Humans are to be protected from possible harm - Investigators must be suitably qualified - Participants must have the opportunity to withdraw from the study at any time - The investigator should terminate the study at any point where humans may be injured, disabled or die □ Declaration of Helsinki <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A group independent of the investigator should review the research protocol to be sure that appropriate procedures are used. ○ The person conducting the research must have sufficient qualifications to undertake the study. ○ There must be an adequate risk/benefit ratio in favor of the participant. ○ If at any time the risks or hazards are greater than the benefits, the research must cease. ○ The right to privacy must be upheld during the conduct of the study ○ All results of the study must be reported with accuracy. ○ The participants must be fully informed of all aspects of the study to give informed consent and also have the privilege of withdrawing from the study at any time. ○ When dependent relationships are involved, some disinterested third party should seek consent of the participants. ○ If potential participants cannot give informed consent because of impaired mental capacity, a responsible relative may do so provided that the research is fully explained to that individual. - The research protocol should state that the principles of the World Medical Association are being followed. <p>Protecting Human Subjects in the United States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ National Research Act has three basic ethical principles provisions that must be considered with human research: Respect for the person or persons, beneficence, and justice. □ The US Code of Federal Regulation, Title 45 Public Welfare, Part 46 Protection of Human Subjects provides explicit statements for what activities must transpire before research can be conducted with human subjects in the United States and for research studies subject to regulation by the federal government outside the United States. Served as the legal basis of the creation of Institutional Review Boards or IRBs across the US.

state laws and bill of rights of the local institution involved.

The nursing education curriculum generally includes foundations of ethics, nurse's code of ethics (both ANA and ICN codes of ethics), and professional values development as part of the essentials of baccalaureate education for professional nursing practice (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2008). Professional nurses are expected to make clinical practice decisions within a professional ethical framework. As lifelong learners, professional nurses should seek continuing education relevant to ethical issues in nursing practice (e.g., ethics and genetic nursing, assisted suicide, euthanasia, etc.) and in the conduct of research (e.g., new laws and international standards of research on data sharing). Nurses should actively engage in examining emerging ethical issues and participate in rigorous discussion to resolve these issues. In conclusion, ethical dilemmas are often complex and ambiguous. Evidence-based ethical frameworks for decision-making described in this paper can serve as an ethical guide for contemporary nursing practice

- Gallup Incorporated. (2014). *Americans rate nurses highest on honesty, ethical standards*. Retrieved from <http://www.gallup.com/poll/180260/americans-rate-nurses-highest-honesty-ethical-standards.aspx>
- Gastmans, C. (2002). A fundamental ethical approach to nursing: Some proposals for ethics education. *Nursing Ethics, 9*(5), 494-507.
- Gastmans, C. (2013). Dignity-enhancing nursing care: A foundational ethical framework. *Nursing Ethics, 20*(2), 142-149. doi: 10.1177/0969733012473772
- Greipp, M. E. (1992). Greipp's model of ethical decision making. *Journal of Advanced Nursing, 17*(6), 734-738.
- Izumi, S., Nagae, H., Sakurai, C., & Imamura, E. (2012). Defining end-of-life care from perspectives of nursing ethics. *Nursing Ethics, 19*(5), 608-618. doi: 10.1177/0969733011436205
- Leuter, C., Petrucci, C., Mattei, A., Tabassi, G., & Lancia, L. (2013). Ethical difficulties in nursing, educational needs and attitudes about using ethics resources. *Nursing Ethics, 20*(3), 348-358. doi: 10.1177/0969733012455565
- Lin, C. F., Lu, M. S., Chiang, H. H., Chung, C. C., Lin, T. L., Yin, T. J., ... Yang, C.M. (2007). Using a citizen consensus conference to revise the code of ethics for nurses in Taiwan. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship, 39*(1), 95-101.
- Mahon, M. M. (2010). Clinical decision making in palliative care and end of life care. *Nursing Clinics of North America, 45*(3), 345-362. doi: 10.1016/j.cnur.2010.03.002
- Musa, M., Harun-Or-Rashid, M. D., & Sakamoto, J. (2011). Nurse managers' experience with ethical issues in six government hospitals in Malaysia: A cross-sectional study. *BMC Medical Ethics, 12*(23), 1-7. doi: 10.1186/1472-6939-12-23
- Oncology Nursing Society. (2011). *Role of the nurse when hastened death is requested*. Retrieved on from <https://www.ons.org/advocacy-policy/positions/ethics/hastened-death>
- Parker, F. M., & McMillan, L. R. (2010). Less talk, more action: SBAR as an interactive approach for ethical decision-making. *Online Journal of Health Ethics, 6*(2), 1-12. doi: <http://aquila.usm.edu/ojhe/vol6/iss2/5>
- Peter, E. (2006). The interplay between the abstract and the particular: Research ethics standards and the practice of research as symbolic. *Nursing Science Quarterly, 19*(1), 20-24; discussion 19. doi: 10.1177/0894318405284122
- Peter, E., & Morgan, K. P. (2001). Explorations of a trust approach for nursing ethics. *Nursing Inquiry, 8*(1), 3-10.
- Rajaram, S. S. (2008). Nursing ethics and sociology. In W. J. E. Pinch & A. M. Haddad (Eds.), *Nursing and health care ethics: A legacy and a vision* (pp. 29-39). Silver Spring, MD: American Nurses Association.
- Rogero-Anaya, P., Carpintero-Avellaneda, J. L., & Vila-Blasco, B. (1994). Ethics and research in nursing. *Nursing Ethics, 1*(4), 216-223.
- Sanderson, C. D. (2014). Ethical and bioethical issues in nursing and health care. In B. Cherry & S. R. Jacob (Eds.), *Contemporary nursing: Issues, trends, & management* (pp. 166-182). St. Louis, MO: Mosby.
- Sawyer, L. M. (1989). Nursing code of ethics: An international comparison. *International Nursing Review, 36*(5), 145-148.
- Shahriari, M., Mohammadi, E., Abbaszadeh, A., & Bahrami, M. (2013). Nursing ethical values and definitions: A literature review. *Iranian Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Research, 18*(1), 1-8.
- Shimpuku, Y., & Norr, K. F. (2012). Working with interpreters in cross-cultural qualitative research in the context of a developing country: Systematic literature review. *Journal of the Advanced Nurse, 68*(8), 1692-1706. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2648.2012.05951.x
- Simmonds, H. (2008). Autonomy and advocacy in perinatal nursing practice. *Nursing Ethics, 15*(3), 360-370. doi: 10.1177/0969733007088360
- Sizemore, R. (2006). Separating medical and ethical: Helping families determine the best interests of loved ones. *Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing, 25*(5), 216-220.
- Swanson, K. M. (1991). Empirical development of a middle range theory of caring. *Nursing Research, 40*(3), 161-166.
- Velasquez, M., Moberg, D., Meyer, M. J., Shanks, T., McLean, M. R., DeCosse, D., & Hanson, K.O. (2009). *A framework for ethical decision making*. Retrieved from <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/framework.html>
- Walker, A., & Breitsameter, C. (2014). Ethical decision-making in hospice care. *Nursing Ethics, 22*(3), 321-30. doi: 10.1177/0969733014534873
- Wang, C. E., & Huch, M. H. (2000). Protecting human research subjects: An international perspective. *Nursing Science Quarterly, 13*(4), 293-298.
- Watson, J. (2008). *Caring science as context*. Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado.
- Weaver, K., Morse, J., & Mitcham, C. (2008). Ethical sensitivity in professional practice: Concept analysis. *Journal of Advanced Nursing, 62*(5), 607-618. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2648.2008.04625.x

- White, G. B. (2008). The Dorothy Vossen Lecture: The institutionalization of nursing ethics. In W. J. E. Pinch & A. M. Haddad (Eds.), *Nursing and health care ethics: A legacy and a vision* (pp. 17-28). Silver Spring, MD: American Nurses Association.
- Whittemore, R., & Knafl, K. (2005). The integrative review: Updated methodology. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 52(5), 546-553. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2648.2005.03621.x
- Wolf, L. (2013). An integrated, ethically driven environmental model of clinical decision making in emergency settings. *International Journal of Nursing Knowledge*, 24(1), 49-53. doi: 10.1111/j.2047-3095.2012.01229.x
- Zahedi, F., Sanjari, M., Aala, M., Peymani, M., Aramesh, K., Parsapour, A., & Dastgerdi, M.V. (2013). The code of ethics for nurses. *Iranian Journal of Public Health*, 42(Suppl 1), 1-8.

Copyright of Journal of Nursing Practice Applications & Reviews of Research is the property of Philippine Nurses Association of America and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.