## **Ethics Paper**\*

The purpose of this assignment is to have students understand and consider the ethical dilemmas they may face in the nursing/medical field. In NURSI 2320, students will learn how to care for critically ill patients and some of the major decisions that are involved with such. Exploring ethical dilemmas in the literature will allow students to examine their personal beliefs in relation to Giddens’ Ethical Principles and various medical situations. Having the ability to search nursing literature will help prepare students for their future practice and education.

1. Each student will:
   1. **Choose an ethical situation** (some examples are listed below) and
   2. **Find a relevant case study** in the nursing literature (within last 5 years) that relates to the ethical dilemma.
   3. Each student then will write a **5 to 7-page paper** (not including the Title and Reference pages) using APA format. This paper *does not need to include an abstract*, but all other APA components are required.
   4. For assistance with APA, see the COD Library’s Citing Sources Guide: <https://cod.libguides.com/citing>
2. Students must include a **self-evaluation on their stance** (can use “I” for this portion) and address **one** of the **5 Ethical Principles,** as described in Giddens (pgs. 407 – 408), in relation to the dilemma.
3. At least **3 references** (1 is the actual case study) should be used that specifically address the selected dilemma, expand on the discussion in the case study, and provide support for the student’s reasoning. Two (2) of the references must be from professional nursing journals (within last 5 years).
   1. Utilize the CINAHL database to locate relevant nursing journal articles and case studies. See the COD Library’s *Nursing Research Guide* for assistance searching CINAHL on Bb. The *Research in 10 Steps Using CINAHL* handout will be especially helpful.

***\*Since this is a portfolio assignment, students must complete and submit the portfolio reflection piece as well.***

Ethical Situations to Consider:

1. Ethics in the ICU: Withdrawal of care in the critically ill patient.
2. Who makes decisions for the cognitively impaired?
3. Privacy/Confidentiality issues of a critically ill patient.
4. Does a patient/parents have the right to refuse?
5. Licensing ramifications if policy & procedure are not carried out appropriately by the nurse.

**Ethics Paper Rubric**

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| **Objectives** | **Points Possible** | **Points Earned** | **Comments** |
| Use of the Nursing literature*: Journals are actually from the correct source and within the specified time frame.* | 1 |  |  |
| APA format: *using correct 6th edition formatting, this includes Title & Reference page*. | 2 |  |  |
| Argument or support of the dilemma: *Student provides evidence either in support of the decision that was made in the case study or against the decision. This is where other references are needed/helpful.* | 3 |  |  |
| Self-evaluation: *How the student feels about the situation, the decisions that were made, what they would do, and why.* | 2 |  |  |
| Application of ethical principle: *Referencing how the ethical situation involves/applies to one of the principles in Giddens.* | 2 |  |  |
| Total Points: | 10 |  |  |