



Exploring Moral Distress




Introducing EthAssist for Nurses





Nurses are constantly faced with complex and difficult ethical decisions as a part of their daily work. Health care is propelled by striving for the highest quality patient care while managing costs within a context of limited resources. The conflict between institutional rules, professional recommendations, and personal values often impact nurses' ability to perform at the highest level and can lead to moral distress. Research indicates that stressful ethical decisions can impact a nurse's decision to remain in the profession, affect personal relationships outside of the workplace, and influence physical and emotional well-being.



This level of stress is important to examine as it affects nurses' ability to care for their patients. Data suggests that nurses recognize ethical issues in areas such as advance care planning, informed consent, surrogate decision making, and end of life care, which all have an important impact on patient care. Nurses with less experience report that broaching these topics can be very stressful or uncomfortable because they have received little training in ethics. These issues can create feelings of powerlessness in nurses, which have broader implications throughout the profession and the rest of the healthcare system.

EthAssist offers

-  *Moral Distress Support*
-  *Continuing Education*
-  *Education and Training*

-  *Seminar Series*
-  *Patient Safety Awareness*
-  *CEU Credits Available*
-  *Procedures and Policies Development*

EthAssist®

- EthAssist is a practical learning content management system (LCMS) that delivers academic and applied bioethics resources to the healthcare industries' professionals and educators.
- This LCMS creates, edits, stores, and delivers, e-learning content in easily accessible and practical ways at the bedside for use in patient care or other learning venues.
- EthAssist provides standardized methodology and reusable learning objects as well as processes and workflows for gathering information. This is supported by a comprehensive, searchable body of current and relevant, researched topics related to health care ethics.



Many ethical issues arise in daily nursing that elicit strong moral responses:

- ➔ Advance care planning and execution
- ➔ Best interests standard for neonatal and pediatrics
- ➔ Withholding/withdrawing life-sustaining treatment
- ➔ Surrogate decision making
- ➔ Conscientious objection
- ➔ Professional recommendations vs. personal values
- ➔ Appropriateness of artificial nutrition and hydration
- ➔ Institutional rules and regulations

ETHASSIST OFFERS INFORMATION AND SUPPORT RESOURCES:

EthAssist® is a patent pending, innovative knowledge delivery system. EthAssist is cloud-based application software that resides on a hosted platform providing

- Speed**
- Reliability**
- Security**
- Back-up**

This strategy also provides system access from anywhere in the world. EthAssist education is delivered on demand through the web, customized to the client's needs.



EthAssist brings healthcare ethics to the bedside.

For more information on how EthAssist can advance your organization, contact Rich Gennuso at **412.977.4597** or **rich.gennuso@icbioethics.com**, or visit: **www.icbioethics.com/ethassist**.