**Nursing Question**

**Student’s Name**

**Institutional Affiliation**

**Article summary**

The article by Ira Bedzow and Lila Kagedan of CNN raises ethical issues currently facing patients when the word is in the middle of the Covid 19 pandemic (Ira & Lila,2020). The article tackles the ethical issues behind the decision to apply when prioritizing healthcare for Covid 19 patients. It begins by quoting the WHO director-general, who said that "We are at war with a virus that threatens to tear us apart." US hospitals are experiencing Covid patient’s influx where the resources are limited, creating a medical emergency regardless of which care must be provided to patients. Due to inadequacy of resources, medical personnel is applying triage decisions whose origin is at war. The triage allows room for the distinction of public health and clinical health ethics, whereby the principle of utilitarianism comes into play. Like in war, where the strongest soldiers are prioritized in treatment to return to war, public ethics favors the young to be prioritized treatment for the better good of human survival.

The article also challenges these practices by indicating that public health ethics should not be practiced in a clinical setting. According to Ira & Lila (2020), the medical personnel have a fiduciary responsibility towards their patients. Medical personnel have no right to determine the intrinsic human life. The article challenges secondary factors such as age, disability, and comorbidity, considered when applying utilitarianism. It suggests that they should only come into play when thinking about survivability. The article concludes that it's impossible to equally allocate resources for Covid 19 Patients suggesting that the triage should only pay when the critical clinical capacity is overwhelmed. Under such conditions, the principle of justice and autonomy may be hard to apply on a large scale. By prioritizing healthcare to achieve a smear group, it may be possible to apply them. However, we should not turn to the general guidelines unless overwhelmed due to a lack of resources.

**Impact and influence**

Ethical issues in nursing or medical practice cause an ethical dilemma. In this pandemic, our nurses are our soldiers, and we have to give them justified guidelines to prevent compromising ethics in their practice. The ethical issue raised in the article may appear biased against the nonmaleficence principle. However, the beneficence principle still applies from a different perspective of survival. By prioritizing the young people, then better care can be provided to the few rather than providing inadequate care, which in the long term may be ineffective. Young people have a stronger immune system, and with better care, it means early discharges (Zhang et al., 2021). This leaves room and time for specialized care of the elderly who may develop severe symptoms. Whenever the resources are inadequate for individual good, we have to do good for the greatest number of people (Maves et al., 2020). The influence of this issue is that it will help the nurse solve the current ethical issue. It also changes the way nurses and medical personae will interpret ethical issues through the utilitarian lens. Every nurse wishes to serve every patient with the best medical care, but when they are overwhelmed, they have to act in the best interest of humanity to solve ethical dilemmas.

**Nurses influence in addressing the ethical issue**

Nurses are an integral part of healthcare and delivery and how it operates (Robbins & Davidhizar, 2020). One way the nurses could help address the issue is by massively campaigning for the increment of personnel. For a long time, healthcare workers have always been inadequate and are the best time to reflect on the importance of adding the capacity. The nurses also need to campaign for adequate medical facilities and equipment as they are among the necessities to achieve equality in healthcare delivery. Nurses have to realize that they have a major role in promoting preventive healthcare rather than curative healthcare (Salmond & Echevarria, 2017). Nurses should advise the general public on how to eat well, the importance of practicing hygiene, and the significance of vaccinations relentlessly. Eating healthy diets and observing hygiene guarantees good health and minimizes chances of hospitalization. Less hospitalization means more medical practitioner's free hands. Hospitalized patients will get quality care without compromising the ethical principles of justice, nonmaleficence, autonomy, and beneficence. The role of the nurse is undeniably big and critical in solving ethical issues directly or indirectly.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, no medical practitioner wants to prioritize healthcare in a way that looks biased. Each one of them wants to serve justice and do what is good for all their patients. None of them want to inflict harm to their patients or take away their patient autonomy on healthcare. However, desperate times call for desperate measures, and nursing is no exception. Utilitarianism will always overcome individual needs to solve ever-unfolding nursing ethical dilemmas (Giubilini et al., 2018). This leaves the nurse with a major role in balancing utilitarianism and individuality in nursing practice.

References

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