Nursing

Discussion: Ethical and legal implications of prescribing drugs

Treatment plans among patients is based on the conditions or infections that they are suffering from. The medications to such patients are also dependent on the condition that the person is suffering from. In this case, the medical practitioner has made a mistake when administering drugs. According to the nursing code of ethics, nurses owe the same duty of care as they do to the patients. In this case, this duty of care is violated when the nurse administers the wrong medication. From an ethics perspective the nurse is expected to alleviate the suffering of the patient by providing him or her with the right quality of care rather than harming them. According to the ethics of duty, the nurse has acted unethically, resulting in harm of the patient. The nurse has failed to promote the right and the safety of the patient as required under the nursing code of ethics.

 From a legal perspective the nurse has been negligent in the administration of drugs by administering doses meant for adults to a child. Negligence is punishable under the law. The patient should be provided with the drug as per the prescriptions. Drugs that are not right for the condition or which are not meant for the specific age of the patient should not be administered otherwise the nurse is held liable for absconding their duty of care and professional excellence towards the patient ins service delivery.

There are well established approaches to addressing the above scenario. According to the American nurse ethics code, the nurses should protect the safety of the patient. This implies that they should be diligent in administering of the drugs. Equally, under the nursing code, the nurses are also expected to exercise professionalism and expertise when dealing with the patients. It is thus important that the nurse ensures that the drugs are prescribed by a qualified doctor,. Provided by a s qualified pharmacist and administered on then patient as required. The safety of the patient will be enhanced.

In order to limit the instances of poor administration of drugs, the nurses should collaborate with patients and their family members. Patient centered care requires that the nurse gathers all fo the relevant information before delivering care. This process increase their understanding of the conditions and the patient history thus increasing chances of proper administration fo care to patients.