

Ethical Challenges

Dawn Prentice
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- Identify common ethical dilemmas in Primary Care
- Discuss professional codes of ethics to assist with resolving such ethical dilemmas

NASW Core Values and Ethical Principles

- Service
- Social Justice
- Dignity and Worth of the Person
- Importance of Human Relationships
- Integrity
- Competence

NASW Standards

- Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities to Clients
- Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities to Colleagues
- Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities in Practice Settings
- Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities As Professionals
- Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities To the Social Work profession
- Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities To the Broader Society

APA Principles

- Beneficence and Nonmaleficence
- Fidelity and Responsibility
- Integrity
- Justice
- Respect for People's Rights and Dignity

APA Ethical Standards

- Resolving Ethical Issues
- Competence
- Human Relationships
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Advertising and Other Public Statements
- Record Keeping and Fees
- Education and Training
- Research and Publication
- Assessment
- Therapy

Competence

APA Standard 2

2.01 Boundaries of Competence

NASW Ethical Principle: Competence

“Social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise.”

Integrity

APA Principle C: Integrity

“Psychologists seek to promote accuracy, honesty, and truthfulness in the science, teaching and practice of psychology.”

NASW Ethical Principle: Integrity

“Social Workers behave in a trustworthy manner. Social Workers act honestly and responsibly and promote ethical practices on the part of the organizations with which they are affiliated.”

Privacy

APA Standard 4: Privacy and Confidentiality

“Psychologists have a primary obligation and take reasonable precautions to protect confidential information obtained through or stored in any medium, recognizing that the extent and limits of confidentiality may be regulated by law or established by institutional rules or professional or scientific relationship”

NASW Standard 1.07 Privacy and Confidentiality

“(a) Social Workers should respect clients’ right to privacy. Social Workers should not solicit private information from clients unless it is essential to providing services or conducting social worker evaluation or research. Once private information is shared, standards of confidentiality apply.”

Informed Consent

APA 3.10 Informed Consent

- (a) “When psychologists conduct research or provide assessment, therapy, counseling, or consulting services in person or via electronic transmission or other forms of communication, they obtain the informed consent of the individual or individuals using language that is reasonably understandable to that person or persons except when conducting such activities without consent is mandated by law or governmental regulation or as otherwise provided in this Ethics Code.”

NASW 1.03 Informed Consent

- (a) “Social workers should provide services to clients only in the context of a professional relationship based, when appropriate, on valid informed consent. Social workers should use clear and understandable language to inform clients of the purpose of the services, risks related to the services, limits to services because of the requirements of a third party payer, relevant costs, reasonable alternatives, client’s right to reuse or withdraw consent, and the time frame covered by the consent. Social workers should provide clients with an opportunity to ask questions.”

Standard of Care

APA Principle A: Beneficence and Nonmaleficement:

“Psychologists strive to benefit those with whom they work and take care to do no harm”

NASW Ethical Principle: Service

“Social workers’ primary goal is to help people in need and address social problems.”

References

- American Psychological Association. Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.asp
- National Association of Social Workers. Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers. www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp
- Robinson, P., Reiter, J. (2007) *Behavioral Consultation and Primary Care: A guide to Integrating Services*. New York: Springer Science+Business Media, LLC.