

## **Ethical Issues Assignment**

### **NURS 332 - The Growing Family**

#### **Purpose of Assignment**

To examine a controversial or politically or publicly debated women's health, obstetric or neonatal issue and present both sides equally.

#### **Student Approach to Assignment**

This assignment required us to pick a controversial topic in the field of obstetrics and display all sides of the argument equally. The topic chosen was birth settings which includes inpatient hospitals, birthing centers, and in-home births. There are many risks and benefits that can be considered for all locations, however, there are many conflicting arguments on what setting is considered the best and safest for the mother and baby. Illustration of all sides were equally examined in the assignment. Overall, the goal of this paper is to provide research and insight on all sides and to allow the reader to come to an informed decision.

#### **Reason for Inclusion of this Assignment in the Portfolio**

This assignment is included in the portfolio because it showcases my ability to illustrate multiple opposing ways of providing care in the obstetrics field of nursing. This paper portrays a non-bias opinion regarding the different birth settings offered to patients and their families. This assignment required the writer to eliminate a personal opinion on the subject and identify the pros and cons to all perspectives of care. As a nurse, I will be caring for diverse patients with potential opposing views therefore being able to eliminate my opinion and follow the patient's wishes will be essential. The following end-of-program outcomes are identified below.

- ❖ Nursing Practice
  - *Demonstrates an awareness of complementary modalities and their usefulness in promoting health.*
    - Example: As discussed in this paper, home births can create many positive experiences for expecting mothers. For example, it often allows expecting mothers to utilize complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) which may include yoga, meditation, music therapy, guided imagery, etc. Overall, this assignment discusses how home births and CAM can help promote health as women expect to have a degree of control and autonomy over the environment, thus enhancing comfort, privacy, and dignity and facilitating optimal physiological function, and thereby encouraging normal birth.

❖ Research

- *Applies research-based knowledge from nursing as the basis for culturally sensitive practice.*
  - Example: As discussed in the paper, research shows that the birth setting that expecting mothers choose comes down to many factors that they would have to consider including the comfort of the surroundings, the safety of their experience, or cultural beliefs. Therefore, it was emphasized that nurses and other healthcare providers should provide the patient with adequate information that allows expecting mothers to make an informed decision that they feel is right for their current situation, values, and cultural beliefs. Overall, this assignment highlights that nurses must be mindful of their outward expressions as they may be misinterpreted as being biased or judgmental.

❖ Professionalism

- *Applies an ethical decision-making framework and legal guidelines to clinical situations that incorporate moral concepts, professional ethics, and advocacy for patient well-being and preferences.*
  - Example: As discussed in the paper, information on birth settings are of interest to pregnant mothers and their families. Expecting mothers should receive education from their providers to assist with their decision-making process. The healthcare team must explain the nature of and reason for birth in each setting, together with the risks involved. Giving women the necessary education allows expecting mothers to make an informed decision. This illustrates the use of ethical decision-making through autonomy and advocates for the patients' well-being and preferences. Overall, the patients' rights are supported by the legal guidelines to make informed healthcare decisions and what they believe is best for them and their families.

❖ Culture

- *Considers the impact of research outcomes and, the effects of health and social policies, on persons from diverse backgrounds.*
  - Example: As discussed in this paper, research shows that the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among developed countries and continues to increase yearly. The maternal mortality for 2020 was 23.8 deaths per 100,000 live births compared with a rate of 20.1 in 2019. This assignment highlights the concern of maternal mortality and stresses the importance of how birth settings may impact maternal and infant health. As a result, multiple policy and practice changes are being implemented to improve hospital and community care for women of all ethnicities.