

Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing

Student Name:

Date:

Instructions: Identify a nursing skill or intervention that you noticed in clinical practice today that was different than what you expected.

Skill/ Nursing Intervention	What did I learn is the textbook expectation? Why is this the expectation?	What is the agency or hospital policy or guideline?	What did I see in practice?	Was there a deviation from what was expected? What was the deviation?
<i>Example ID band</i>	Noticing: All patients wear an identification band with the patient's name, medical record and date of birth. This aids in assuring the right treatment is performed on the right patient.	Noticing: All patients wear an identification band and the nurse ensures the ID band is correct before she initiates care.	Noticing: Patient was a three year old male. The identification band was taped to his crib. The nurse verified it was the correct identification band but the nurse did not place it on the patient.	Noticing: Yes. Identification band was taped to crib and not placed on patient.
Why was there a deviation?	What is the potential impact on the patient?	Is there an alternative that falls within expected guidelines? What is it? Is this safer? Why or why not?	Was the deviation from expected practice isolated or is it common within the department? Explain.	How did I handle the deviation from practice?
Interpreting: The nurse said the band "bothered" the patient and he didn't want to keep it on.	Interpreting: The patient could be misidentified and received the wrong treatment. He could be misidentified by caregivers that are not familiar with him, if there were an emergency, or if he left his room. His bed could be exchanged and someone else might be misidentified.	Interpreting: Soft bands are available and the band could be moved to the patient's ankle. This is safer as it allows for the pt's comfort and ensure they are easily and appropriately identified.	Interpreting: The practice is common. I assisted another nurse and one of her patients had their identification band taped to the nurse server.	Responding/Reflection: I didn't know what to do.

Reflecting: Reflect on your response to this situation. Is there anything you wanted to do differently?