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# ETHICAL ISSUES RELATED TO REPRODUCTION

# What exactly is ethical reproduction?

## ◎ Rights

- A right is the sovereignty to act without the permission of others ([www.freerepublic.com](http://www.freerepublic.com)).
- Other words that might come to mind.....
- Privilege
- Initiative
- Freedom
- Capable

## ◎ Morals

- ◎ A moral is a practical lesson, a value, or a desired attitude used to teach a principle of right and wrong ([www.sil.org](http://www.sil.org)).
- ◎ Other words that might come to mind.....
- ◎ Lessons
- ◎ Message
- ◎ Right vs. Wrong
- ◎ Feelings

# Something to think about.

- Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status ([www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)).

# The Nurse's Role in Ethical Reproductive Issues

- Bridging patient rights and professionalism
- Supporting patient rights
- Providing accurate information on choices
- Being aware of personal biases, and opinions

The Interest Theory justifies the right to reproduce on grounds of overriding interest. It should be seen as part of a person's well being, a take sufficient reason for holding some other person to be under a duty. Therefore reproduction interest represents a strong aspect of well being. The identifying interest of this theory regards genetic reproduction and child rearing. Both of these concepts weight heavily in reproductive health, and the rights of the patient. The right to reproduce is a FREEDOM in the choices associated with this theory(Quigley, M. 2010).

# INTEREST THEORY

The Choice theory justifies patient rights on the grounds of necessity to protect personal autonomy. The main consensus of this theory is the right to choose to have children, and the right to choose not to have children. The violation of this right would to have others interfering with/preventing a person to have a child. (Quigley, M) .

## CHOICE THEORY

# ?Thoroughly Confused?

- Please keep in mind that when dealing with reproductive health many other issues must be addressed such as laws, rights, and morals. It is not easy to define ethical reproduction topics due to the complexity of the topic.



# Conscience Protections for Physicians

## Federal Regulations: What is Obama Doing?

The federal law during the Bush administration prohibited recipients of federal money from discriminating against doctors, nurses and other health care workers who refuse to perform or assist in abortions or sterilization procedures because of their “religious beliefs or moral convictions ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))

- Pres Bush's law created the potential to limit patient access not only to abortion services, but also to contraception. Obama rid of it and put the power back into the patients. This is because the law now states money can be taken from health care facilities unless it is proven there is no discrimination in relation to health care professionals.

# Global Gag Rule

- ◎ Pres Obama's second move on reproductive rights
- ◎ Mexico City Policy (a.k.a) Global Gag Rule: Bared nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) that work overseas from offering abortion services, counseling, or referrals if these organizations were receiving family planning funds from the U.S. government.

# Global Gag Rule Cont.

- Obama banned this policy in 2009. It is now possible for NGO's to assist in reproductive health needs of patients internationally with US funded dollars.

# United Nations Human Rights

- Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law , general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups ([www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)).

# Michigan State Policies/Procedures on Reproductive Health

- ◎ The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.....

You  
Decide

# The Good.....

- Michigan provides certain low-income women increased coverage for Medicaid-funded family-planning services.

Michigan law requires health-insurance plans that cover prescription medication to provide the same coverage for contraception.

[www.naral.org](http://www.naral.org)

# The Bad....



Michigan law restricts young women's access to abortion services by mandating parental consent.

[www.naral.org](http://www.naral.org)

# The Ugly

Michigan prohibits certain state employees and organizations receiving state funds from counseling or referring women for abortion services

- ⦿ Michigan requires women seeking abortion services to biased-counseling requirements and mandatory delays.



# Food for thought

- The facts about Michigan laws on reproductive health can seem to be counter productive. As nurses it is important to understand the State laws, and provide the best care to our patients. This can be a daunting task, when faced with a pregnant teen asking for help, or a low income family facing pregnancy. What will you do?



# Warning: Will affect patient care!

## ◎ Opinions

**Beliefs**

**Judgments**

**Personal**

**Individual**

**Subjective**

**Emotional**

**Interpretation**

## ◎ Biases

**Prejudice**

**Discriminatory**

**Perceived**

**Predisposition**

**Impartial**

# Nursing Responsibility to the Community

There should be a natural linkage between human rights and professional ethics....Simply put, there is no safe haven around these issues, only the challenge to build a firm foundation for our ethical decision-making... L. Joel RN 1997

What can we do?

As nurses we need to be understanding and use our knowledge and experience to aid our patients with reproductive health

# Respect

Nurses must recognize their own feelings toward reproductive health and respect patients rights, and decisions.

# Quality and Safety

# Improve awareness

- Familiarize yourself with different reproductive choices.
- Understand State and National Laws.
- Increase education on Cultural awareness.
- Take time to reflect your own personal thoughts and biases.

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