

Ethical and Policy Factors in Care Coordination

NURS-FPX 4050

ASSESSMENT TWO

Overview



The ACS is committed to eliminating cancer as a significant health issue.



Its goals include promoting cancer prevention, saving lives, and supporting those affected by cancer.



ACS provides extensive support services for cancer patients and their families, such as counseling, financial assistance, and resource access (Wolf et al., 2023, p. 1).



Advocacy efforts focus on improving cancer care policies, funding research, and increasing awareness about cancer prevention and early detection.

Importance of Ethical and Policy

Considerations
Ethical considerations ensure care is provided in a way that upholds patient rights, dignity, and autonomy.

- Policy considerations guide decision-making, resource allocation, and legal compliance, fostering consistency and accountability in care delivery.
- Government policies shape the healthcare landscape, influencing access to services, reimbursement models, and quality standards.
- In cancer care, policies related to insurance coverage, research funding, and treatment guidelines significantly impact care coordination and patient outcomes (Walton et al., 2022, p. 3).



Analyzing Policy Impact on Cancer Care

- Medicaid expansion increases access to cancer screening and treatment for low-income individuals.
- Coverage for preventive services supports early detection, such as mammograms and colonoscopies.
- Reimbursement rates for cancer treatments affect the affordability and availability of therapies for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Coverage criteria for clinical trials influence patient participation in research and access to innovative treatments.
- Drug approval processes determine timelines for drug availability and treatment options for cancer patients.
- Tobacco product labeling requirements impact cancer prevention efforts and public health initiatives (Wolf et al., 2023, p. 2).



Addressing Ethical Dilemmas in Care Coordination

- National: HIPAA regulations regarding patient privacy and confidentiality.
- State: Scope of practice laws governing healthcare professionals' roles and responsibilities.
- Local: Resource allocation decisions within healthcare systems or community organizations.
- Balancing patient confidentiality with the need for information sharing among care team members.
- Ensuring equitable access to cancer care resources while navigating state regulation limitations.
- Addressing ethical considerations surrounding end-of-life care decisions and advance directives within local healthcare policies (Walton et al., 2022, p. 4).

Influence of the Code of Ethics for Nurses

Emphasis on patient advocacy, where nurses advocate for optimal cancer care outcomes and ensure patient-centered care delivery.

Commitment to collaboration, with nurses working with interdisciplinary teams to address ethical dilemmas and enhance patient care coordination.

Respect for patient autonomy, empowering cancer patients to make informed decisions about their care and treatment options.

Adherence to confidentiality, maintaining patient privacy while sharing necessary information within the care team to facilitate coordination and continuity of care (Karam et al., 2021, p. 16).

Role of Social Determinants of Health

Relevant social determinants include socioeconomic status, access to healthcare services, education level, and community resources.

These factors influence cancer risk, access to screening and treatment, and health outcomes.


Addressing social determinants enhances cancer care outcomes by reducing disparities in access to care and treatment adherence.

Interventions like patient navigation programs and community outreach initiatives improve patient engagement and health equity in cancer care (Karam et al., 2021, p. 16).

Key Ethical and Policy Issues

- **Informed consent:** Ensuring patients understand their treatment options and risks.
- **End-of-life care:** Balancing patient autonomy with compassionate decision-making.
- **Equity in access:** Addressing disparities in cancer care access based on socioeconomic factors.
- **Insurance coverage:** Ensuring comprehensive cancer prevention, treatment, and supportive care services coverage.
- **Regulatory compliance:** Adhering to HIPAA and other legal requirements while sharing patient information.
- **Research funding:** Advocating for increased funding to drive innovation and improve treatment options.





Formulating Recommendations for Action

Ethical and policy considerations are crucial in cancer care coordination within the ACS community.

Addressing social determinants of health, respecting patient autonomy, and advocating for equitable access to care are essential.

Collaboration among healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community stakeholders is vital for effective cancer care coordination.

Implement patient navigation programs to support cancer patients throughout the care continuum.

Advocate for policy changes to enhance insurance coverage and access to cancer screening and treatment services.

Strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and communication to address ethical dilemmas and ensure patient-centered care delivery.

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