

Week 6 Collaboration Cafe

a. Describe a fictional ethical dilemma or a dilemma you have encountered in your nursing practice.

In a busy emergency room, Mr. Toby, a skilled family nurse practitioner (FNP), faced a critical situation. Paramedics had just wheeled in an unconscious young man named John Doe. His head bled profusely, and his life hung in the balance. But there was a twist—John was a devout Jehovah's Witness, and his faith forbade blood transfusions. This simple fact would soon complicate everything.

The trauma team swiftly stitched up John's wound, but the real challenge lay ahead. His hemoglobin levels dropped dangerously low. Without a blood transfusion, he wouldn't survive. NP Toby knew the hospital's policy: save lives at all costs. Yet, John's unwavering beliefs were equally powerful; a "No Blood" card in his wallet speaks volumes.

John believed God would heal him without blood. NP Toby respected religious freedom but also had a duty to preserve life. Time ticked away – the clock on the wall was a constant reminder.

NP Toby met with John's mother, Mrs. Doe. Her stern expression revealed a weary resolve. She held legal custody of John and shared his faith. For her, blood transfusions were out of the question.

NP Toby considered seeking court intervention – a guardian ad litem who could decide for John. But it was risky. If they lost, John might die, and the hospital could face legal trouble.

Late into the evening, a judge listened to NP Toby's plea. The urgency was apparent – the plummeting hemoglobin levels, the ticking clock. The judge hesitated but granted permission for guardian ad litem.

The following day, John was lying pale and weak in his hospital bed. Enter Jane – a compassionate lawyer appointed as John's guardian ad litem. She spoke to John, listened to his fears, and then turned to Mrs. Doe.

"John's life is at stake," Jane asserted. "We must honor his beliefs, but we also have a duty to protect him."

Mrs. Doe's tearful eyes met Jane's. "I can't lose my son."

Jane remained resolute. "We need to proceed with the transfusion."

As blood flowed into John's veins, he stirred. His eyes opened, and for a moment, peace settled over him. The battle between faith and medicine had left scars, but John was alive.