

NR584 - Week 1 Discussion

Quality and Safety

Identify ONE quality or safety issue that may be pertinent to your future advanced nursing practice role.

A safety issue that is pertinent to my future advanced practice role as a nurse educator is nurses' failure to report errors due to fear of negative repercussions.

Describe the scope and impact of the issue

Nurses often recite the Nightingale Pledge upon completing their education, which reflects the ethical principle of nonmaleficence, or “doing no harm.” Although nurses make this ethical commitment, patient harm due to unsafe healthcare practices remains a global concern. Injury to patients due to unsafe healthcare practices is listed as the 14th leading cause of illness and results in roughly 2.6 million deaths worldwide (Glarcher & Vaismoradi, 2025). This emphasizes the widespread scope and serious impact of patient safety issues across healthcare systems.

A major contributing factor to this problem is the underreporting of errors by nurses. Many nurses hesitate to report mistakes because of fear of punishment, damage to their professional reputation, or feelings of shame. Failure to report errors or adverse events reduces the opportunities for organizations to identify system failures, implement corrective actions, and prevent future harm.

Discuss three possible roles advanced practice nurses may play in addressing the issue.

1. Fostering an environment of safety and acceptance through the enforcement of a “Just Culture”.
 - a. The concept of a “Just Culture” addresses the concern of healthcare workers’ failure to report errors. By stressing that mistakes are often the result of breakdowns between healthcare systems and human interactions, it reinforces the idea that individual negligence is not the cause alone (Glarcher &