**Debate Assignment**

Student’s Name

Institution

Course

Professor’s Name

Date

**Debate Assignment**

**Part 1: Scholarly Outline**

**Opening**

Concerns about patients’ health and well-being have prompted many healthcare facilities to mandate nurses to get the flu vaccine, given their close interaction with patients

Vaccinating nurses helps to prevent the spread of the flu

Position statement: All nurses should get vaccinated against influenza

1. Mandatory influenza vaccines enhance patient safety by limiting the spread
2. CDC data shows a reduction in the rates of flu infection among healthcare workers in hospitals that have high vaccination coverage (Bell, 2023, p. 1237).
3. Schumacher et al. (2023) demonstrates the effectiveness of the influenza vaccine in reducing related mortality and morbidity in hospitals (p. 1418)
4. The principle of non-maleficence requires nurses to do no harm and it is therefore their responsibility to be vaccinated to avoid transmitting the flu to patients.
5. Nurses should get vaccinated in order to as a professional duty to uphold patient care standards
6. Public Health Agency of Canada (2023) advocates for flu vaccination as an approach to professional responsibility (Para 13).
7. Deontological ethics emphasize the duty of healthcare workers to protect the welfare of patients and maintain high professional standards
8. The compulsory vaccination of nurses against the flu contributes to the herd immunity and therefore protects the community at large.
9. Bullen et al. (2023) demonstrates how achieving herd immunity helps to lower the spread of the flu to the community (p.637).
10. The positive effects of getting the vaccine go beyond the protection of an individual as the community benefits as well.

**Closing**

Nurses should be vaccinated against influenza in order to protect patients, live up to their professional responsibility, and foster public health.

**PART 3: Individual Debate Discussion Post**

During the most debate session on whether nurses should be required to take influenza vaccine, there were strong arguments from both teams despite them being in opposition. The pro team’s strength was that it incorporated a sufficient amount of statistical data and supporting principles whereas the con’s team strength was that it mounted a compelling argument in support of subjective autonomy. While both arguments were supported by data and scholarly research, they could be improved by incorporating evidence from recent case studies which are based on real-life practice. I learnt a lot from the topic being debated, more so the delicate balance between the priorities of public health and the rights of individual nurses. The issue of ethics with respect to mandatory vaccines proved to be more complex than I initially perceived it to be. While my support for mandatory vaccination remains, my opinion about the autonomy of nurses and possible risks posed by the vaccine to nurses, as presented by the con team drew me to consider the value of consent and choice while making decisions in healthcare.

**References**

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