**Topic 8 DQ 2**

Ethical dilemmas often exist in nursing practice and leadership. They normally revolve around a challenging workspace or are brought about by conflicting patient interests. In my practice I have encountered such a dilemma. The scenario involved balancing patient confidentiality with the need to inform family members about a given critical condition. The patient did not want the information disclosed to family members. The patient was in a critical condition and the information was about a terminal illness they were recently diagnosed with. Patient autonomy is a critical part of the ANA code of ethics. This posed a dilemma to me as the patient’s needs conflicted with the principle of beneficence which advices on acting in the best interest of the patient (ANA, 2021).

In this context, I applied the same ANA code of ethics which emphasizes the need for the nurse to advocate for the patient with respect to their autonomy (ANA, 2021). An open discussion with the patient is advised as it gives more insight in to their reason for confidentiality as well as potential implications on their care and well – being. I ended up negotiating with the patient and getting their point of view after which, we had a conversation with the other family members. In this case, one potential gap in the ANA code of ethics is the absence of explicit guidelines for such situations. It should also explicitly state how to handle the situation with a broader view of the well – being of the patient and family involvement.

**Reference**

American Nurses Association. (2021). Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements. Silver Spring, MD: Author.