Ethical Considerations for the Nurse Anesthetist

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The operating room environment is one that is “high-stakes”, dynamic and stressful. It is inevitable that ethical concerns should arise from the pre-operative to the intraoperative and postoperative periods. A literature review was conducted to review the state of the science concerning ethical concerns facing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. Ovid (Medline) and PubMed databases were queried using key words: Nurse Anesthesia, ethical concerns, ethical considerations, and perioperative period. Interestingly, there was a paucity of research related to ethical considerations and concerns related to nurse anesthesia practice. The database search produced 35 results, with the majority of articles focusing on issues related to informed consent and transfusions in the Jehovah’s Witness population. Clearly, more research needs to be conducted exploring the ethical concerns of those engaged in nurse anesthesia practice. This presentation will address the current science and identify the gaps related to this topic.