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Expanding Our Understanding Complex Decision-Making in Emergent, Routine, and Urgent Ethically Challenging Clinical Situations

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Nurses routinely provide care to patients in ethically challenging situations.

Study Purpose
The purpose of this study was to discover and identify the continuum between conscientious objectors and designated staff in the provision of nursing care to women seeking abortions. More specifically, we sought to gain a deeper understanding of processes that nurses use when making clinical decisions in ethically challenging situations using abortion as the clinical context.

Methods
Constructivist Grounded Theory Method was used. A purposive sample of 25 nurses who currently or previously work in abortion clinics, emergency departments (ED), intensive care units (ICU), labor and delivery (L&D), operating rooms (OR) and post anesthesia care units (PACU) were interviewed between November, 2012 and August, 2013.

Questions were designed to examine and explore the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral processes associated with how nurses make decisions to care for women needing and seeking abortions.

Funding for this study was provided by the University of California, San Francisco Clinical Translational and Science Institute (grant: UL1 TR000004) and Sigma Theta Tau International – The Honor Society in Nursing small grants program (#7771).