

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING**

**COURSE TITLE : ETHICAL ISSUES, DILEMMAS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN
MENTAL HEALTH NURSING**

COURSE CODE : NUR 451

FINAL EXAMINATION

MAY 2005

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer all questions
2. Time allowed for the examination is two (2) hours
3. Total marks for the examination is (60)

QUESTION 1

You have been hired by drug company to be charge of a drug trial programme as a researcher. What are your ethical duties and obligations in this regard?
(20)

TOTAL : 20

QUESTION 2

- a) Rp is a patient on the ward who has had several admissions for the treatment of cancer of the prostate. He sometimes experiences fainting spells and each time that happens he receives blood transfusions. In the course of his illness RP has become quite knowledgeable about his condition and knows that his Blood Pressure and red cells counts are important indicators of his condition. When nurse PK takes RP's blood pressure and charts it, RP asks what the reading was, nurse PK becomes annoyed and says "it was fine" and quickly leaves RP's bedside. When nurse PK returns to RP's bedside, she finds him reading his chart which had been left on his bedside stand. Nurse PK returns to RP's bedside, she finds him reading his chart which had been left on his bedside stand. Nurse PK patients to see their charts.

Evaluate nurse PK's actions in this scenario.

- b) Mondle, a 47 year old man is admitted for severe depression following the failure of his once successful small business and divorce from his wife of 15 years. His wife and children now live in South Africa. Mondle's depression has progressed to the point where he is refusing all medications, food and water in the hope that he will die. Intravenous therapy has been instituted and he is receiving IV. His nutrition is maintained by force feeding him through a nasogastric (NG) tube. Despite the fact that Mondle is restrained he manages to dislodge the NG tube necessitating that the NG tube be passed anew each time he is to be fed. Nurses found this procedure a real nuisance since it required additional sedation of the patient. The procedure required three or four persons to hold Mondle while the NG tube was being passed and he was fed. Because of the gripping while trying to force feed hem, Mondle developed bruise marks on his lower jaw and body. One of the nurses was concerned and reported this to the supervisor. The supervisor said the bruises were inco-sequential considering the necessity of nutrition being supplied to Mondle.

Evaluate the nurses actions utilizing ethical/moral justifications, if any.
(10)

TOTAL : 20

QUESTION 3

30 year old Ngcamu has spent 2 weeks in the hospital and he realizes that his condition is deteriorating. The doctor raking care of him knows that Ngcamu has metastatic cance of prostate buy has not told the patient the diagnosis despite that Ngcamu has asked the doctor what is wrong with him. The doctor has always said "don't worry, you will be just fine." One day after serving him his medications, Ngcamu asks nurse Trusty to tell him what is wrong with him. How should nurse Trusty deal with the situation since team care is used by the doctor and the nurses.

TOTAL : 20