

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

TITLE OF PAPER: ETHOSAND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN
MIDWIFERY

COURSE CODE: MID 104

FINAL EXAMINATION: DECEMBER, 2008

TIME: 2 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS; 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
- 2. FIGURES IN BRACKETS INDICATE MARKS ALLOCATED TO EACH OR PART OF A QUESTION**
- 3. ANSWER EACH QUESTION ON A NEW PAGE**
- 4. DO NOT CHEAT, IF YOU CHEAT YOU WILL BE PENALISED**

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QUESTION 1

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Instruction: Select the most appropriate response and write in your answer sheet the number and alphabet in the correct response

1. Ethics may be defined as:
 - (a) A behaviour that is right or wrong
 - (b) A study of morals of certain groups and individuals
 - (c) Moral dilemmas in health care
 - (d) A, B and C
 - (e) A and B

2. In explaining the difference between a traditional birth attendant and a midwife, you will state that the most important character of a midwife is that she/he:
 - (a) Attends to deliveries which may have a good outcome.
 - (b) Has undergone some form of training
 - (c) Is trusted by families and communities.
 - (d) Is bound by the Code of Professional Conduct

3. One of the responsibilities of a midwife is to maintain confidentiality, this implies that a midwife:
 - (a) Shall not divulge information even if the public is in danger
 - (b) Should use her judgement and act responsibly where there is need for truth telling
 - (c) Should not share information with colleagues
 - (d) Should persuade the client to share confidential matters with significant others.

4. A midwife has an enormous responsibility to the profession; therefore a midwife should ensure that:
 - (a) S(he) is aware of activities of professional organisations and statutory bodies.
 - (b) S(he) identifies midwifery issues and brings them to the attention of the government and the public at large.
 - (c) S(he) is involved in research and renders evidence based care
 - (d) A and B are correct responses
 - (e) All if the responses above.

5. Which of the following statements is true about the midwifery model of care

- (a) It is disease oriented
- (b) Information is restricted from clients
- (c) Pregnancy is viewed as a normal event
- (d) Individual health is given low priority

6. A midwife is expected to conduct research in order to:

- (a) Identify clients at risk of acquiring infectious diseases.
- (b) Work in collaboration with Government and International agencies.
- (c) Render quality care
- (d) Attend conferences

7. Mrs Gwebu requests that she delivers her baby squatting on the floor. The midwife in charge of the delivery refuses because the request was not in line with maternity policies. Which of the following statements best describes the responses of the midwife.

- (a) The midwife conformed to the maternity policies
- (b) The midwife was applying the medical model of care
- (c) The midwife conformed to the right to self determination
- (d) The midwife was right in her actions

8. Autonomy is central to midwifery practice; it implies:

- (a) Telling the truth at all times
- (b) Giving a consent to every procedure
- (c) The right to self determination
- (d) Dilemmas in midwifery practice

A midwife is transferring a client from the labour ward to theatre for a Caesarean section. Before the client is received by the theatre staff a midwife requests the client to sign a form attached to the chart. Question 9- 14 addresses the scenario:

9. The signature that appeared on the clients' document indicated that the client has:

- (a) Given a consent for the operation
- (b) Given an informed consent for the operation.
- (c) Been coerced to sign a document
- (d) Been ordered to sign a document

10. A certain level of coercion is acceptable on condition that it is for the:
- (a) Best interest of the partner
 - (b) Best interest of the client
 - (c) Best interest of the foetus
 - (d) Best interest of society
11. The midwives' action reflected that s(he) had:
- (a) Observed the principles of ethics
 - (b) Conformed to the Bill of Rights for Patients
 - (c) Undermined the autonomy of the client
 - (d) Acted responsibly in ensuring that all documents were completed according to the hospital policy.
12. Which of the following statements best describes 'informed concern'?
- (a) It recognises the autonomy of the client
 - (b) It is an acceptable hospital practice
 - (c) It reflects total patient care
 - (d) It is commonly practiced in maternity settings
13. The Bill of Rights for Patients that was not observed in the case presented was the:
- (a) Right to know hospital rules.
 - (b) Right to privacy
 - (c) Right to safe care
 - (d) Right to give informed consent
14. Which Code of Professional Conduct was violated by the midwife?
- (a) Respect of confidential information obtained in the course of professional practise.
 - (b) Act in such a way as to promote and safeguard the wellbeing and interests of patients
 - (c) Working in a collaborative manner with members of the health care team.
 - (d) Avoidance of abuse of the privileged relationship which exists with clients.

15. A midwife is on duty alone and has to render care to a client who is having an eclamptic fit, yet she was attending to a client who is bleeding excessively. The midwife is confronted with a/an:

- (a) Crisis
- (b) Ethical dilemma
- (c) Complicated situation
- (d) Management issue

16. If one of the clients dies during this critical time, the midwife will have:

- (a) Tried her best to render care to both clients
- (b) Managed to save one life
- (c) Blamed herself for not reporting that her colleague did not report for work
- (d) To be charged for negligence

17. Which of the Code of Professional Conduct has the sister in charge of maternity ward violated, when she allocated fewer midwives in maternity ward:

- (a) Assisting peers and subordinates to develop professional competence with their needs.
- (b) Disregarding the workload of professionals and taking appropriate actions if they jeopardise safe standards of practice.
- (c) Respecting confidential information obtained in the course of professional practice.
- (d) All of the above.

18. Mrs Dube is attended by a midwife who noted that her foetus was dead in utero. Mrs Dube wants to know about the condition of the foetus, but the midwife withholds the information until the doctor has confirmed foetal death. The midwives' act may be interpreted as unethical as Mrs Dube has:

- (a) the right to know the truth about her foetus
- (b) to be accorded respect
- (c) the right to autonomy
- (d) A and C

19. The midwife may have withheld information from Mrs Dube on the basis that she/he:

- (a) was not aware of her responsibility to the client
- (b) was supportive to the maternity policy
- (c) had a duty to protect Mrs Dube
- (d) was not sure if her findings were correct

20. Truth telling and a duty to protect a client may create a situation known as:

- (a) Negligence
- (b) Confidentiality
- (c) Responsibility
- (d) A dilemma

21. Deliberately keeping Mrs Dube in a state of ignorance deprived her of power to make decisions which may have resulted in a state of:

- (a) Shock
- (b) Dependency
- (c) Responsibility
- (d) Confusion

22. If Mr Dube refuses that the midwife disclose the news of a dead baby to his wife, the midwife has to be aware of:

- (a) the right to respect the clients' husband
- (b) the right to protect the family
- (c) the right to protect the unborn child
- (d) the right to truth telling

23. If the midwife discloses the news of a dead baby to the mother she is demonstrating her accountability to the:

- (a) Profession
- (b) Mother
- (c) Husband
- (d) Family

24. Withholding the truth from Mrs Dube about the state of the baby may deny her the right to:

- (a) Respectful care
- (b) Privacy
- (c) Self- determination
- (d) Essential care

25. Suppose the midwife discloses the news to the mother and she collapses after receiving the news, the midwife may be seen to have:

- (a) Been loyal to the client
- (b) Observed the rights of the client
- (c) Failed to safeguard the vulnerable client
- (d) Acted in the public interest.

QUESTION 2

Mrs Skhosana would like to deliver her baby at home, but she resides in a rural area, the nearest health centre is 50 km away from her homestead. She will deliver during the rainy season and the roads are not paved. There is also a river to cross; the bridge is usually over flooded. Mrs Skhosana has delivered four babies at home without any problems and requests the midwife to be available to assist her during delivery of the present baby.

(a) Discuss ethical debates that are raised by this scenario

(25 marks)

QUESTION 3

(a) Explain briefly why health care providers offer routine HIV testing to pregnant women

(5 marks)

(b) Explain any 20 reasons why routine antenatal HIV screening test may be ethically questionable

(20 marks)