

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
FINAL EXAMINATIONS
MAY 2012

COURSE TITLE: NURSING ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE II
COURSE CODE: NUR 206
TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS
TOTAL MARKS: 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.**
- 2. READ QUESTIONS CAREFULLY.**
- 3. SECTION HAS MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS.**
- 4. SECTION B HAS ESSAY QUESTIONS.**
- 5. WRITE CLEARLY.**

DO NOT OPEN THE PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR!

SECTION A:

QUESTION 1

1.1 - 1.17: CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

1.1 One of the most important legal laws affecting nurses is :

- A. The Nurse's Act
- B. The ethical code for Nurses
- C. The Hippocratic oath
- D. The International Nurse's Pledge

1.2 This law involves the rights of individuals and stipulates methods of maintaining or regaining such rights

- A. Contract Law
- B. Judiciary law
- C. Criminal law
- D. Civil law

1.3 Primary Health Care is:

- A. The Affordable Care that puts you in charge of your health care.
- B. Health care that is provided by a health care professional in the first contact of a patient with the health care system
- C. Health care law that offers clear choices for consumers and holds insurance companies accountable
- D. The health care that provides preventive services and prescription drug discounts for seniors.

1.4 In health professions, ethical codes embody the ideals of the following EXCEPT

- A. Compassion for suffering
- B. Respect for dignity of all human beings.
- C. High standards of clinical research and practice
- D. Treating people according to their social class

1.5 Modern medical codes & oaths are patterned after the Hippocratic Oath and contain these basic concepts EXCEPT:

- A. To work for the good of the patient
- B. To cause them no harm
- C. To give drug or perform an operation that would cause harm to the patient
- D. To honor the profession & protect it from corruption

- 1.6 This was influential for generations of nurses though never formally adopted as a code of ethics for the profession
- A. The Nightingale pledge
 - B. The international pledge for nurses
 - C. The Physician's oath
 - D. The ICN Code For Nurses

Scenario

Nurse Joyce who is in excellent health has a routine checkup at the hospital where she works. She asks her physician not to write in the medical record that she had been severely depressed several years ago. She knows that many people in the hospital might see her medical record, and she does not want colleagues to know her psychiatric history. She also knows that she would have difficulty changing jobs if her history is known.

- 1.7 The physician might fear that omitting medical information from patient records might lead to:
- A. Practice that is corrupt
 - B. Compromising the quality of care
 - C. A and D
 - D. Availability of important clinical information during emergencies
- 1.8 The patient is said to be the best judge of her best interests, if the physician fails to go along Nurse Joyce which ethical principle does he breach?
- A. Justice
 - B. Beneficence
 - C. Veracity
 - D. Confidentiality
- 1.9 What should the physician do in order to respect the patient's informed preferences to exclude sensitive information from her medical records, as well as retain important patient information?
- A. He may omit the information from the medical records but have it kept separately strictly confidential.
 - B. He has to convince nurse Joyce to allow him to include the information for use in emergencies
 - C. He tells her that the risk of subtotal care resulting from incomplete information is more threatening than confidentiality
 - D. A and C

- 1.10 Second generation human rights are;
- A. Those human rights which the Government may not violate.
 - B. Those human rights in which the government has an obligation to render assistance
 - C. Those that arise out of special transactions between individuals
 - D. Those human rights which arise out of some special relationship
- 1.11 The following are first generation human rights EXCEPT
- A. Right to human dignity
 - B. Right to privacy Right to language and culture
 - C. Right to freedom of religion
 - D. Right to education
- 1.12 The purpose of collective bargaining is to:
- A. Fight for relations between employers and employees
 - B. Prevent the employee from speaking with the union
 - C. Prevent and settle disputes by negotiation between employers and employees over matters such as salaries and working conditions.
 - D. Enforce discipline to the employees
- 1.13 The nursing profession has a special responsibility to ensure & protect the rights of patients at all times because:
- A. Nursing is the most important component of health care
 - B. Nursing has to protect the community e.g. during a serious epidemic
 - C. Nurses provide treatment in a considerate and respectful care
 - D. Nurses are well informed about the medical consequences of their actions

Scenario

Mrs. Johns was admitted in hospital X with severe anaemia, the health care team attended to her and informed her that she needed emergent blood transfusion since she belonged to the Jehovah's Witness religious group she strongly refused blood transfusion and said "I would rather die than have blood transfusion"

- 1.14 Which patient's right supports Mrs. Johns' actions?
- A. Right to freedom of speech and association
 - B. Right to expect reasonable care & to be informed of available care options when hospital care is no longer appropriate.
 - C. The right to be informed of hospital policies that relate to patient care
 - D. The right to refuse a recommended treatment or plan of care

- 1.15 By refusing blood transfusion Mrs. Johns will be:
- A. Exercising patient's autonomy
 - B. Exercising her right to privacy
 - C. Showing her knowledge about human rights
 - D. Showing that she is ready to be with the Lord
- 1.16 What should the health care team do in this case?
- A. Give her the blood anyway because she needs it
 - B. Inform her about the medical consequences of her actions and make her sign refusal of hospital treatment
 - C. Convince her to leave the Jehovah's Witness sect and go to other churches which allow blood transfusion.
 - D. Advise her to go home to die
- 1.17 Informed consent acts to:
- A. Do good and not harm other people
 - B. Inform patients about their conditions
 - C. Provide the subjects with adequate information regarding participation in a study
 - D. Ensure that most decisions we make also affect other

Questions 1.18 - 1.25 are TRUE or FALSE questions, Write T or F to indicate the correct answer.

- 1.18 The principle of justice claims that an action is right if it tends to produce the greatest balance of value over disvalue.
- 1.19 A nurse following an inaccurate physician's order is legally responsible for any harm suffered by the client.
- 1.20 In health professions, ethical codes embody the ideals of compassion for suffering and respect for dignity of all human beings
- 1.21 The student of nursing should be under the influence of substances /alcohol during class or at clinical placement to relieve stress.
- 1.22 The health care law offers clear choices for consumers and provides new ways to hold insurance companies accountable.
- 1.23 Man is a unique, complex psycho-social, cultural, biological, spiritual and moral being whose health is vulnerable and who makes his own choices.
- 1.24 The patient does not have the right to obtain current & understandable information about diagnosis, treatment , & prognosis
- 1.25 THE nurse can refuse to participate in an abortion as well as nursing the patient after the procedure, on religio- moral grounds

25 MARKS

SECTION B

Question 2:

- a) Briefly describe the purpose of a code of ethics. (5Marks)
- b) Write notes on the following:
 - i. The right to treatment
 - ii. The right to confidentiality and privacy (10 Marks)
- c) Discuss euthanasia under the following headings:
 - i. Active euthanasia
 - ii. Passive euthanasia (10 Marks)

25 MARKS

Question 3:

- a) Discuss ethical issues concerning abortion under the following headings
 - i. Rights of the foetus
 - ii. Rights and obligations of the mother (10 Marks)
- b) Explain situations that would require treatment without informed consent. (5 Marks)

Scenario

Nurse Phindiwe participated in a strike with 200 other nurses because two nurses at her institution were suspended following a dispute over clinical grading and promotion. This strike was joined by nurses from two other hospitals, and all nurses were members of labour unions. The nurses arranged for emergency staffing of nursing units during the two-week strike. 18 months later, Phindiwe and all the nurses who participated in the strike are being investigated for alleged professional misconduct.

- c) Should nurse Phindiwe and the other nurses be charged for professional misconduct? Discuss and support your argument with ethical issues. (10Marks)

25 MARKS

!!GOOD LUCK!!