

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2011

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

COURSE : NUR 451

DURATION : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
 - 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS**
 - 3. NO PAPER SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO NOR
OUT OF THE EXAMINATION ROOM**
 - 4. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A SEPARATE SHEET
OF PAPER**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED
BY THE INVIGILATOR**

Question 1: Multiple choice questions.

Select the answer that best responds to each of the following questions e.g., 40 =s (1 point each).

1. Informed consent refers to
 - a) Principle of autonomy
 - b) Voluntary but uninformed decision-making
 - c) Permission to participate in research
 - d) Voluntary decision to participate in research by a competent individual who has received and understood the necessary information

2. Nurse Janine avoids deliberate harm, risk of harm and harm that occurs during her performance of nursing actions. The nurse is promoting which ethical principle?
 - a) Autonomy
 - b) Non-maleficence
 - c) Beneficence
 - d) Justice

3. Nursing ethics provides the standards for professional behavior and is the study of principles of right and wrong for nurses. This set of standards states the duties and obligations of nurses to:
 - a) Client
 - b) Other health professionals
 - c) Community
 - d) All of these

4. Being answerable for one's own action is assuming:
 - a) Accountability
 - b) Responsibility
 - c) Veracity
 - d) Non-maleficence

5. A client is advised by the doctor to undergo chemotherapy. An informed consent is not yet signed. This client requests information related to chemotherapy and the drugs that will be given to him. The nurse explained the side effects of the medications, including the length of treatment and the prognosis of the disease. The nurse answered all the questions of the client honestly even though the client may choose not to undergo chemotherapy. The nurse in this situation is promoting:
 - a) Fidelity
 - b) Justice

- c) Veracity
- d) Confidentiality

6. The client on renal dialysis informs the nurse that he wants to stop the series of dialysis. The nurse should appropriately do which action in response to the client's decision?

- a) Inform the client that the doctor must decide what to do.
- b) Tell the client that he must finish his series of renal dialysis.
- c) Respect the client's decision and provide comfort measures.
- d) Leave the client and attend other patients.

7. Informed consent is a method that promotes:

- a) Autonomy
- b) Non-maleficence
- c) Beneficence
- d) Justice

8. The execution of duties associated with nurse's particular role is called:

- a) Accountability
- b) Responsibility
- c) Veracity
- d) Non-maleficence

9. The duty to respect privileged information is called:

- a) Fidelity
- b) Justice
- c) Veracity
- d) Confidentiality

10. When does a moral issue become an ethical issue?

- a) When the choices are clearly denoting which is right and wrong.
- b) When values of a person develop and changes over time.
- c) When there is no acceptable reason for the wrong choice once it is done.
- d) When the choice is no longer clear between right and wrong.

11. Utilitarianism suggests that it is ethical to make decisions based on

- a) What is best for most people
- b) Common decency
- c) Moral values
- d) What is best for an individual.

12. Distributive justice refers to
 - a) Rewards allocated to those who shout loudest
 - b) Rewards allocated regardless of contribution
 - c) Rewards allocated by level of contribution
 - d) Rewards allocated to those who cannot help themselves

13. Free consent is a willingness to participate in situations related to informed consent. There are constraints related to voluntariness, which can be internal and external. Internal constraints include which of the following?
 - a) Coercion
 - b) Significant trauma
 - c) Undue violence
 - d) Fraud

14. The principles or standards that influence behavior and decision making which are based on experience, religion, education and culture are called:
 - a) Ethics
 - b) Morals
 - c) Values
 - d) Standards of practice

15. The personal conviction that something is absolutely right or wrong in all situations
 - a) Ethics
 - b) Morals
 - c) Values
 - d) Standards of practice

16. Which of the following is not a way to enhance autonomy?
 - a) Focus first on general goals not technical options
 - b) Disagreements should initiate a process of mutual exchange
 - c) The nurse makes the final decision on nursing management
 - d) Recommendations must consider both clinical facts and personal Experiences

17. The major conceptual foundation of deontology, a system of ethical thought, is that people have a specific duty to
 - a) Consider the consequences of decisions in relation to others
 - b) Maximize good and minimize harm within society
 - c) Do what is right for the individual
 - d) Bend rules when it will help the patient

18. When does a moral issue become an ethical issue?
 - a) When the choice is no longer clear between right and wrong

- b) When the choices are clearly denoting which is right and wrong
 - c) When values of a person develop and change over time
 - d) When there is no acceptable reason for the wrong choice once it is done.
19. A wrong dose of drug is administered by the nurse. The nurse is responsible to whom?
- a) The client
 - b) The doctor who ordered the drug
 - c) The community
 - d) All of these
20. An individual is reflecting ethical thoughts from the school of Utilism when making the statement
- a) "Does the decision adhere to the rules of right and wrong?"
 - b) "The sanctity of life takes precedence over the quality of life"
 - c) "What is good or right must triumph over what is bad or wrong"
 - d) "Will the consequences of this decision cause a burden to society"
21. The nurse in a unit is caring for several clients. To distribute nursing care, the nurse utilized the principle of triage due to the limited availability of resources. The nurse is promoting which ethical principle?
- a) Fidelity
 - b) Justice
 - c) Beneficence
 - d) Confidentiality
22. A client you have been counseling tells you he is going to shoot his wife because of her infidelity. As his counselor
- a. You respect his right to confidentiality and do not tell anyone
 - b. You tell him that in this instance you have to breach confidentiality and inform the police
 - c. You just encourage him not to shoot his wife
 - d. You report to the police and hope he does not find out.
23. You receive a fax from another hospital asking your hospital to release information about a particular patient you attended to 6 months ago.
- a) You fax them all information you can find dating back to that time.
 - b) You throw the fax into the garbage can.
 - c) You fax them back telling them you can not release the information.
 - d) You ask them to have the patient send you a release of information form
24. First generation rights, which governments may not violate, will not include
- a. The right to medical care
 - b. The right to life
 - c. The right to privacy
 - d. The right to human dignity

25. An absolute patient right in health care is
- a. The right to treatment
 - b. The right to know
 - c. The right to refuse receiving treatment
 - d. The right to confidentiality and privacy

Question 2

- a) Dr. M., a cardiologist, is accused of facilitating his mother's (an 83-year old woman suffering terminal cancer of the colon) death by withholding certain treatment to hasten her death. What ethical issues and dilemmas are inherent in this scenario? (15)
- b) What criticisms have been leveled against
- (i) psychopharmacology (5)
 - (ii) psychotherapy (5)

TOTAL 25

Question 3

Nurses in Swaziland have frequently engaged in industrial action (work strikes) to force employers to meet their demands.

- a) What are the rights of nurses regarding work strikes? (10)
- b) As an essential service, what are the nurses' obligations to the profession and the patients at times when a strike action is embarked upon? (15)

TOTAL 25