

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

FINAL EXAMINATION

DECEMBER, 2012

TITLE OF PAPER: NURSING ETHICS, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND THE LAW

COURSE CODE: GNS 209

TIME ALLOCATED: TWO HOURS

TOTAL MARKS : 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

N.B. DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

SECTION A:

QUESTION 1

1.1 - 1.17: CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER (write the upper case in your answer script e.g. 1.1 A)

1.1 Which is correct concerning values?

- (i). Values may be subdivided into personal, professional and societal value systems.
- (ii). Values are the greatest strength of deontological ethical theories
- (iii). Values are similar to rights
- (iv). Values are usually derived from societal norms, family orientation and religion

A iii

B ii, iv

C i, iv

D ii, iii

1.2 Empathy means:

- A. Entering into someone's frame of reference in terms of thoughts, feelings, and experiences, in order to have authentic understanding their experiences imaginatively as one's own
- B. The use of some form of pressure to persuade or compel an individual to agree to a belief or action
- C. Guiding principles that all the members of the profession accept
- D. Feeling sorry for someone and crying with him/her

1.3 In order to fulfil its responsibility to promote nursing excellence, the Swaziland Nursing Council adopted the concept of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Code of Ethics for Nurses, which defines the responsibility of the nurse as to;

- A. Treat illness, prevent disease, alleviate suffering and restore health
- B. Promote health, prevent illness, restore health and alleviate pain and suffering
- C. Promote health, to restore health, give drugs and to alleviate suffering
- D. Prevent illness, promote suffering, restore health and promote health

1.4 This addresses the consequences of an action but not the intention of the action

- A. Deontological ethics
- B. Teleological ethics
- C. Meta ethics
- D. Utilitarianism

1.5 People who explain highly specialized technology or skilled nursing care to the juror, who typically have little or no exposure to medicine or nursing are called _____

- A. Lay witnesses
- B. Advocates
- C. Expert witnesses
- D. Lawyers

1.6 The principle which addresses personal freedom and self determination is _____

- A. Beneficence
- B. Nonmaleficence
- C. Autonomy
- D. Veracity

(Question 1.7- 1.9 relate to the scenario below.)

Scenario

Mrs. Mabhena a 40 year old Xhosa lady, has had a total abdominal hysterectomy after signing an informed consent She appears to be having difficulty understanding the discharge instructions she was given prior to leaving the surgeon's office. To protect the right to obtain complete current and understandable information, the nurse who was caring for her looked for a health care interpreter who read and explained the instructions to make sure that Mrs. Mabhena understood. The nurse also answered all the questions Mrs. Mabhena asked including that she would not be able to menstruate again.

1.7 Which ethical principles did the nurse apply?

- A. Fidelity and justice
- B. Veracity and paternalism
- C. Beneficence and veracity
- D. Beneficence and justice

1.8 When the nurse looked for a health care interpreter to explain the instructions in Mrs. Mabhena's language she was acting as:

- A. A care giver
- B. A surrogate
- C. An intruder
- D. An advocate

- 1.9 What is meant by informed consent?
- A. When a patient informs the surgeon to perform an operation on him
 - B. A client's agreement to allow something to happen, such as surgery, based on the disclosure of the risks, benefits, alternatives, and consequences of refusal.
 - C. A discussion between the client and the nurse about information about the client's care.
 - D. The health care that provides surgery and informing clients about prescribed.
- 1.10 This law refers to conduct that is offensive or harmful to society as a whole
- A. Contract Law
 - B. Judiciary law
 - C. Criminal law
 - D. Civil law
- 1.11 The following may consent to medical treatment EXCEPT
- A. Any competent individual 18 years of age and older for himself or herself
 - B. A minor who is married or is a parent
 - C. Any grandparent for a minor grandchild in case of emergency and the parents are not there.
 - D. The doctor who is going to treat the client
- 1.12 The principle of beneficence entails:
- A. fair treatment of patients without discrimination
 - B. Acting with charity and kindness, to do good and avoid doing bad
 - C. Keeping one's word, nurses are expected to do what they said they would do
 - D. Respecting human dignity
- 1.13 These are the characteristics of a profession EXCEPT
- A. A profession is characterized by having a uniform that identifies its members
 - B. A profession is characterized by high social status and considerable social power
 - C. A profession is characterized by continuous striving for excellence
 - D. A profession is characterized by ethical control code of professional conduct by its own members

(Question 1.14-1.15 relate to the scenario below.)

Scenario

Mrs Simelane, a school health nurse, recently referred an 8-year-old child to the clinic physician for a hearing assessment. The child's teacher had noticed that the child was having problems in his schoolwork and did not pay attention in the classroom. Mrs Simelane examined the child physically and then referred him to an ENT specialist for hearing assessment.

The test results were then sent to the child's paediatrician from the ENT specialist with recommendations that the child had a marked bilateral hearing loss requiring a hearing aid, follow-up, and a special education programme. Several months later the nurse learnt that the paediatrician had told the parents that the child was normal and that the poor performance had nothing to do with a hearing problem.

Mrs Simelane then called the paediatrician for further information, but he indicated that the child did not need special education and the nurse should leave everything to him.

1.14 What should the nurse do in order to carry out her primary responsibility of health promotion?

- i. She should discuss the situation openly with the paediatrician and the child's parents for the good of the child's health and education.
- ii. She should see to it that the teacher and parents confer so that suitable educational arrangements for the child can be arranged
- iii. Avoid poor nurse- paediatrician, relationship and not relate this child's hearing problem to poor performance.
- iv. Statement

- A. iii
- B. i, iv,
- C. ii, iii, iv
- D. i, ii

1.15 The nurse in the above scenario acted as:

- A. An advocate and collaborator
- B. An educator and adviser
- C. A surrogate for the child
- D. All of the above

1.16 Which statement is true, regarding the ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses?

- A. It is a document that has consideration of legal implications of nursing practice
- B. It is a public statement of belief expressing the moral concerns, values and goals of nursing
- C. It is a public statement that places emphasis on the nurses' roles
- D. It is a document that ensures continuous evaluation and improvement of standards of care

Question 1.17 relates to the scenario below

Scenario

Nurse Bean worked in an institution which had a clear written policy for dispensing and documenting medication. However, she made it a practice to wait until the end of her shift to record all medications she had given during her shift. She was sued for giving a double dose of metronidazole to one patient. In court she admitted that at the end of the day in question she could not remember what she had given or to whom. She also admitted that on one occasion she had given insulin without checking the patient's record resulting in the patient getting it (insulin) when she was already on oral hypoglycemic drugs, which resulted in complications.

- 1.17 What would be the possible court ruling in this case
- A. The court noted that the institution's policies and procedures had been followed in the care of patients
 - B. The court noted that the patient who was given metronidazole twice did not tell the nurse that she had been given the drug already
 - C. She was found guilty of misconduct by intentionally violating a policy established for the patient's well-being and safety.
 - D. Patients have no right to refuse treatment when they think that they are being given an overdose.

Questions 1.18 - 1.25 are TRUE or FALSE questions, Write True or False in your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer.

- 1.18 Nursing care is unrestricted by considerations of age, color, creed, culture, disability or illness, gender, nationality, politics, race or social status
- 1.19 Often the ethical principles that nurse employ every day in practice settings come into conflict with each other.
- 1.20 The nurse has the right to refuse to participate in an abortion as well as nursing the patient after the procedure, on religio- moral grounds
- 1.21 Negligence and malpractice by health care providers are not regarded as torts
- 1.22 Good labour relations are dependent on the quality of interaction between the employer and employees
- 1.23 A professional nurse should never join a trade union because trade unions resolve problems by strikes, which is bad for nurses

1.24 Collective bargaining provides the opportunity of comparing the value which workers attach to a profession with the determination of the public to use the product and obtain best services

1.25 Though the Nurse's Practice Act is the law, the state boards of nursing can waive its provisions

25 MARKS

SECTION B

Question2:

Scenario

Nurse Phumzile is a devout Catholic who does not believe in abortion. According to her religion she considered it to be killing of human life. She was allocated to work in room A-4 and assist in an elective/planned abortion. She told the nursing supervisor that her religious and moral beliefs did not allow her to participate in performing an abortion. The nursing supervisor, however, had to look for someone else to assist with the abortion, and this resulted in delaying the procedure. When Dr. Graham heard this he claimed that the fetus was really just "a piece of tissue" and not human, especially in early pregnancy and said nurse Phumzile should come and assist. When she declined, he walked angrily in the corridor claiming it was a sad day for patients when nurses decide that they would not provide needed care.

2.1 Discuss the guidelines that Nurse Phumzile should follow for refusal of care based on her religious and moral beliefs. (10 Marks)

2.2 One of the requirements of professional health care ethics is confidentiality. Describe three situations in which confidentiality can be overridden in order to protect the patient (6 Marks)

2.3 It is important to obtain consent of participants in research , discuss the essential components of an informed consent (9 Marks)

25 MARKS

Question 3:

3.1 Nurses and physicians who render care to accident victims are usually protected by the Good Samaritan laws of that country: Discuss the guidelines of the Good Samaritan Laws. (10 Marks)

3.2 Nurses light a lamp and take pledge of service on their entry into professional practice. What aspects does this lamp symbolize? (5 Marks)

SCENARIO

Mrs. Hlatshwayo, retired nurse aged 67 with two children and six grown up grandchildren, lives alone in the rural area with limited income. Two months ago she fell and broke her left hip and had surgery for total hip replacement. She later suffered a left sided cerebrovascular accident (CVA). Completely paralyzed on her right side, Mrs Hlatshwayo has decided that she no longer desires aggressive therapy and frequently asks the staff why she cannot die in peace. "The rehabilitation is so painful and I will never walk again. What's the use?" She lamented.

Both the doctors and her family are more optimistic. The orthopaedic surgeon is convinced she will walk again, and the neurologist believes she will make a full recovery and be able to return home and care for herself. Both doctors are assuring her children that she will be "as good as new" and ignoring her requests to discontinue her medication and rehabilitation therapy.

She is now refusing to cooperate with the physical and occupational therapists, and refusing to take any medications.

3.3 Discuss how the nurse would use the MORAL model to solve this dilemma. (10 Marks)

TOTAL MARKS = 25

GOOD LUCK!!