

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

FINAL EXAMINATION

NOVEMBER 2013

**COURSE TITLE: NURSING ETHICS, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND
THE LAW**

COURSE CODE: GNS 209

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 75

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.**
 - 2. READ QUESTIONS CAREFULLY.**
 - 3. SECTION A 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

Choose the **BEST** answer and write the corresponding **LETTER** only; e.g. 1.1 = A

1.1 Nurse practice Acts are set to protect the public, what is their purpose?

- i. They are a check list for nurse's competence
 - ii. They define the practice of nursing
 - iii. They give guidance within the scope of practice
 - iv. They set standards for the nursing profession
- A. i, ii, iii
 - B. ii, iii, iv
 - C. i, iii, iv
 - D. iv, i, ii

1.2 The following statements are true regarding torts

- i. A tort is a civil wrong committed against a person and this does not include property.
 - ii. Acts or omissions which unlawfully violate a person's rights
 - iii. Torts that are of primary importance to health care providers are in the area of negligence or malpractice
 - iv. Prevents unskilled persons from handling or moving the injured
- A. ii, iii
 - B. i, iv
 - C. i, iii
 - D. ii, i

Questions 1.3 and 1.4 require you select the correct answer that would fill in the gap

1.3 Courts have continually defined malpractice as _____

- A. Information that is recorded from a legal perspective
- B. professional misconduct, unreasonable lack of skill, or fidelity in professional or judiciary duties
- C. A situation whereby the medical superintendent allows emergency surgery to be carried out on a patient who cannot grant consent
- D. Breaching confidentiality by providing information about suspected child abuse

1.4 _____ looks not at the consequences of an action but to the intention of the action

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

- 1.5 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
- 1.6 Those who may consent to medical treatment include the following 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

Questions 1.7 to 1.9 refer to the scenario below

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:
- i. Practice that is corrupt
 - ii. Compromising the quality of care
 - iii. Breach of confidentiality
 - iv. Unavailability of important clinical information during emergencies
- A. ii, iii
 - B. ii, iv
 - C. i, iv
 - D. ii, iv
- 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?

- i. He may omit the information from the medical records but have it kept separately strictly confidential.
- ii. He has to convince nurse Joyce to allow him to include the information for use in emergencies
- iii. He tells her that the risk of subtotal care resulting from incomplete information is more threatening than confidentiality
- iv. He tells her that she is not the only one who suffered depression, even the matron did.

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

Questions 1.10 to 1.12 refer to the scenario below

Scenario

Mrs. Johns was admitted in hospital X with severe anaemia, the health care team attended to her and informed her that she needed emergency 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"

1.10 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

1.11 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

1.12 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

1.13 Euthanasia is:

- A. The act of ending one's life
- B. The act of actively or passively killing a person for reasons of mercy
- C. A moral just claim that a person has about his life or death.
- D. Identification of patients who are ready to die

Question 1.14 to 1.19; select the correct answer from A to F and match with the statement in the middle column. e.g. 1.14 = A

1.14	Collective bargaining assists in this area	A. These can be used in cases of liabilities due to malpractice or in labour disputes
1.15	The 'closed shop' principle	B. The employer is given responsibility and accountability of the employee's negligent actions
1.16	Strike	C. may represent its members in a law suit in both civil and labour courts
1.17	Expert witnesses	D. Maintenance and promotion of professional practice as acceptable standards of care and adequate staffing ratios
1.18	A trade union	E. An agreement between employees and employers in a particular industry that only union members will be employed in the industry.
1.19	Vicarious liability	F. A concerted withholding of labour supply in order to bring economic pressure upon management and force management to grant employees demands

Questions 1.20- 1.25 are TRUE or FALSE questions, Write T or F to indicate the correct answer.

1.20 People who practiced nursing had their activities encapsulated in taboos and rigid societal sanctioned behavior

1.21 The nurse takes appropriate action to safeguard the co-worker who is endangering patient care.

- 1.22 It is ultimately the role of the trial judge to decide whether an expert witness possesses adequate skill, training or knowledge, and experience to serve as one.
- 1.23 Respect for individuality is less regarded in the elderly because they are not as able as the young population.
- 1.24 Medical records serve to remind practitioners of their obligation to their patients hence should be destroyed
- 1.25 The patient has the right to refuse treatment or plan of care to the extent permitted by law and to be informed of the medical consequences of his/her actions

25 MARKS

SECTION B

Scenario: Hospital X has advertised vacancies for professional nurses. In its advert they want to employ qualified Registered General Nurses who have respect for human dignity and a caring spirit. The professionals will be expected to be independent and practice with competence. They should always provide high quality care in a way that promotes trust by the health service consumers. They should also maintain high standard of nursing and make use of the nursing process and evidence based practice. In their advert they also state that the hospital is already expanding, hence there is room for specialization. A post basic qualification would be an added advantage.

- 2.1 Discuss 8 characteristics of a profession and how the nursing profession meets the criteria as applied to the above scenario. **(8 Marks)**
- 2.2 Discuss the possible violations by nurses, that would warrant disciplinary actions to be instigated **(8Marks)**
- 2.3 The patient has the right to refuse treatment or plan of care to the extent permitted by law and to be informed of the medical consequences of his/her actions. The state, however, may deny a patient's right of refusal. Discuss the limitations on refusal to therapy. **(5Marks)**
- 2.4 Criminal law refers to conduct or actions that are harmful to the public/society, give four examples where this can occur in nursing practice **(4 Marks)**

25 MARKS

