

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
MAIN EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2016

COURSE CODE : GNS 209
COURSE TITLE : ETHICAL ISSUES, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE & THE LAW
TOTAL MARKS : SEVENTY-FIVE (75)
DURATION : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. THE PAPER HAS THREE QUESTIONS
2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH SECTION ARE GIVEN AT THE BEGINNING
3. ANSWER ALL THREE QUESTIONS
4. **START EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE**
5. HANDWRITING MUST BE LEGIBLE
6. FIGURES IN BRACKETS INDICATE MARKS ALLOCATED PER QUESTION OR A PART OF THE QUESTION

DO NOT OPEN THE EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION IS GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR

QUESTION ONE

INSTRUCTION: Read the situation and answer the questions that follow

Situation

A nurse is alerted by the rural health motivator in one Chiefdom that there is a family with a child who sustained severe burns from boiling water five days ago and being nursed at home yet the child looks in need of medical attention. The child who is three years old fell into a tub with boiling water. The nurse decides to visit the family that very same day. The nurse is met with a strong smell at the door where the child is. The child looks in pain and is groaning. The pieces of cloth that are covering the wounds are wet and bloodstained. Asked why the parents did not take the child to hospital on the same day the accident happened, the father replies that in their family they communicate all their needs to God and he provides.

- 1.1 Should the parents' reason for keeping the sick child at home be of concern to the nurse? (1) Support your answer (2)
- 1.2 Are the parents refusing treatment for their child? (1) Support your answer (2)
- 1.3 Who are the stakeholders (immediate and distant) in this case study? (5)
- 1.4 Discuss any three legal implications of this situation. (9)
- 1.5 Discuss one ethical principle that the nurse could use in trying to get the child to hospital for prompt treatment (3)
- 1.6 Explain the ethical theory the nurse might utilize to convince the parents to let the sick child receive medical treatment (2)

[25 points]

QUESTION TWO

INSTRUCTION: Read the situation and answer the questions that follow.

Situation

Mr. Mamba is 55 years old and has three wives. He was admitted 3 days ago in Ward X because of declining health. He has lost a lot of weight, has a productive cough and chronic diarrhoea. Upon admission at the hospital, detailed history was obtained from him, health assessment performed and tests ordered and carried out. Among other tests, the test for HIV status revealed that he was HIV positive with a CD4 count of 218 and the sputum test revealed that he has pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB). The doctor has since informed the patient about the results. Though the patient has received the test findings, he has requested that the doctor not to tell any of his wives especially about the HIV test results. He further requested the doctor to instruct the nurses not to reveal anything to any of his wives and/or children.

- 2.1 Is such a request from the patient to his doctor and nurses reasonable? (1) Motivate your answer (1)
- 2.2 Who are the immediate and distant stakeholders in this case scenario? (5)
- 2.3 Discuss one particular ethical principle upon which Mr. Mamba might be basing his request of keeping away this information from his wives and family? (3)
- 2.4 Discuss one ethical principle that the nurses may utilize in trying to justify why his wives need to be informed about his HIV status. (3)

2.5 Discuss the ethical theory that may be used to justify why nurses need to reveal the husband's medical diagnoses to his wives (3)

2.6 Discuss any three legal implications of the patient's request for withholding the information about his medical diagnoses from his wives and family. (9)

[25 points]

QUESTION THREE

INSTRUCTION: This question has multiple choice questions mixed with statements that are true and false. Choose the most appropriate answer for each question and write it in your answer book. Example: 3.1 = D, 3.2 = F, and so forth.

3.1 Which of the following is responsible for protecting the welfare of the nurses?

- a. Swaziland Nursing Council
- b. Swaziland Nurses Association
- c. Ministry of Health
- d. all the above

3.2 A nurse who practises without a valid licence is said to be practising illegally.

- T - true
- F - false

3.3 The term malpractice refers to

- a. general carelessness
- b. breach of duty of care
- c. unlawful activities
- d. All the above

3.4 A nurse may be stricken off the nurses' register if found guilty of malpractice.

- T - true
- F - false

3.5 A nurse who is stricken off the nurses' register in one country can apply and be re-registered in another country.

- T - true
- F - false

3.6 A nursing student may not be sued for negligence while placed in the clinical area for clinical practice experience.

- T - true
- F - false

3.7 Malpractice by a nurse can result in

- a. disciplinary hearing
- b. legal proceedings
- c. being given a strong warning
- d. All the above

- 3.8 The nurse who forgot to check the vital signs of a patient who was scheduled for theatre that morning committed an act of
- forgetfulness
 - commission
 - omission
 - malpractice
- 3.9 The only time a nurse cannot be found guilty of having breached the professional standard of care is
- if the activity she did not do well was delegated by the matron
 - if the activity she did not do well was delegated by a doctor
 - in the case of an emergency
 - if that particular procedure was not taught during training
- 3.10 Overuse of restraining measures on patients may result in the nurses being sued for
- negligence
 - malpractice
 - violation of patient rights
 - all the above**
- 3.11 Nurses are permitted to go on strike.
- T - true
F - false
- 3.12 Nurses are exempted from assisting the surgeon who may be performing a therapeutic Abortion on a patient.
- T - true
F - false
- 3.13 The _____ is responsible for protecting the general public from unscrupulous Practitioners.
- Ministry of Health
 - Swaziland Nurses Association
 - Swaziland Nursing Council
 - International Council of nurses
- 3.14 In Swaziland, all practising nurses renew their registration every
- six months
 - twelve months
 - twenty four months
 - sixty months

- 3.15 Nursing students must be registered with the _____ upon commencement of their training programme.
- Ministry of Health
 - Swaziland Nurses Association
 - Swaziland Nursing Council
 - Tertiary institution
- 3.16 Nurses may not join trade unions.
- T - true
F - false
- 3.17 The nurses who injected a patient with morphine 10mg instead of 15mg committed an act of omission.
prescribed medication.
- T - true
F - false
- 3.18 When and if nurses go on strike, they must ensure that no other nurses remain behind helping especially critical patients
- T - true
F - false
- 3.19 Not using the nursing process when caring for clients is breach of duty of care.
- T - true
F - false
- 3.20 The reasonable person
- does not exist in reality
 - is a standard test used to investigate a law suit
 - is an objective test used in the court of law
 - all the above
- 3.21 Duty of care is legal responsibility of both organizations and staff within them.
- T - true
F - false
- 3.22 Patients are expected to give permission to all procedures to be done on them.
- T - true
F - false
- 3.23 Nurses may supervise a client with terminal illness and wishes to die when he/she self-administers the tablet that will terminate his/her life.
- T - true
F - false

3.24 Unless in an emergency situation, nurses may not take orders concerning patient care from doctors per telephone.

T - true

F - false

3.25 Which of the following form(s) part of the scope of nursing practice in Swaziland?

The

- a. Nightingale Oath
- b. International Council of Nursing
- c. Code of Ethics
- d. all the above

[25 points]