

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION DECEMBER 2017**

**COURSE NAME: ETHICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF MENTAL HEALTH NURSING**

**COURSE CODE: CMH411**

**TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS**

**TOTAL MARKS: 75**

**INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**  
**2. EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 25 MARKS**

**DO NOT OPEN THE EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION TO DO SO HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR**

### Question 1

- a) Mr. Mango, 45-year-old, has been receiving dialysis three times a week for the past 8 months because of kidney failure. Efforts to get an organ donor have failed. Two months ago his medical scheme informed him that he has used up all his money for treatment. The hospital is now telling him that the dialysis will be stopped because it is too expensive and he is depriving other patients, with better chances of recovery, of needed resources for their care
- i) What ethical theory, with justification, is at play in this scenario? (4)
- ii) Do you consider the hospital's approach to handling Mr. Mango's illness proper? (6)
- b) Baby Todvwana was born 2 weeks ago with multiple birth defects which doctors considered, on scientific evidence, would inevitably cause her death. The doctors made a decision not to perform corrective surgery for some of the defects because they foresaw the baby's misery and painful life would persist as she would not benefit in the long run from any form of corrective surgery.

Using the ethical theories of deontology and divine command, how would you, as a nurse, handle the case of baby Todvwana?

(15)

TOTAL = 25

### Question 2

The issue of "rights" is pertinent to health care and nursing care in general. Discuss rights you have to accord patients with mental health problems as a mental health nurse.

(25)

TOTAL = 25

### Question 3

#### Multiple choice questions.

Select the response that that best answers each of the following questions and indicate your choice by writing the letter preceding the response next to the corresponding number e.g. 60=g. (1 mark each).

1. The distribution of nurses to areas of "most need" in a time of nursing shortage is an example of:
- a) Deontological theory
  - b) Justice
  - c) Utilitarianism theory
  - d) Beneficence

2. In most ethical dilemmas, the solution to the dilemma requires negotiation among members of the health care team. The nurse's point of view is valuable because
  - a) The principle of autonomy guides all participants to respect their own self worth
  - b) Nurses develop a relationship to the client that is unique among all the professional health care providers
  - c) Nurses have a legal licence that encourages their presence during ethical discussions
  - d) The nurses' code of ethics recommends that a nurse be present at any ethical discussion about client care
3. The nurse practice acts are an example of
  - a) Civil law
  - b) Common law
  - c) Statutory law
  - d) Criminal law
4. A confused client fell out of bed because side rails were not used is an example of which type of liability
  - a) Felony
  - b) Assault
  - c) Battery
  - d) Negligence
5. To respect a client's personal space and territoriality, the nurse
  - a) Keeps curtains pulled around the client's bed
  - b) Stands a metre and a half away from the client if possible
  - c) Explains nursing care and procedures
  - d) Avoids the use of touch
6. When a client is confused, left alone with bedside rails down and the bed in a high position, the client falls and breaks a hip. What law has been broken?
  - a) Battery
  - b) Negligence
  - c) Assault
  - d) Civil tort
7. Ethics of care suggest that ethical dilemmas can best be solved by attention to
  - a) Ethical principles
  - b) Clients
  - c) Relationships
  - d) Code of ethics for nurses
8. The client's right to refuse treatment is an example of
  - a) Nurse practice acts
  - b) Common law
  - c) Statutory law
  - d) Civil law
9. The nurse puts a restraint jacket on a client without the client's permission and without a doctor's order. The nurse may be guilty of
  - a) Assault
  - b) Battery
  - c) Neglect

- d) Invasion of privacy
10. A client is hospitalised in the end stage of terminal cancer. His family members are sitting at his bedside. What can the nurse do to best aid the family at this time?
- Discourage spiritual practices because this will have little connection to the client at this time
  - Limit the time visitors may stay so they do not become overwhelmed by the situation
  - Avoid telling family members about the client's actual condition so they will not lose hope
  - Find simple and appropriate care activities for the family to perform
11. Ethical dilemmas often arise over a conflict of opinion. Once a nurse has determined that a dilemma is ethical, a critical first step in negotiating the difference is of opinion would be to
- Ensure the attending doctor has a written order for an ethics consultation to support the ethics process
  - List ethical principles that inform the dilemma so that negotiations agree on the language of the discussion
  - Gather all relevant information regarding the clinical, social and spiritual aspects
  - Consult a professional ethicist to ensure that the steps of the process occur in full
12. Informed consent is a method that promotes
- Non-maleficence
  - Autonomy
  - Beneficence
  - Justice
13. Being answerable for one's own action is assuming
- Accountability
  - Responsibility
  - Non-maleficence
  - Veracity
14. Nurse Zishwili avoids deliberate harm during the performance of nursing actions. Nurse Zishwili is promoting which ethical principle?
- Autonomy
  - Nonmaleficence
  - Beneficence
  - Justice
15. A client is being transported to the hospital following a fall from a high-rise building. An informed consent is not yet signed. The client requests information related to procedures and the drugs that may be given to her. The nurse explains the side effects of the medications including the length of treatment and possible outcome of injuries sustained. The nurse answers all questions by the client honestly even though the client may choose not to undergo treatment. The nurse in this situation is promoting
- Confidentiality
  - Fidelity
  - Justice
  - Veracity

**Question 3 B**

Match the phrases in column A with the correct meaning in Column B., e.g., X = 55.

(1 mark each)

Column A	Column B
A. Seeks to compensate victims for injuries suffered by culpable action or inaction of others.	1. Autonomy
B. Treatment method that controls behaviour by changing emotions	2. Non-maleficence
C. Health care resources are allocated so that the best is done for the greatest number of people	3. Psychotherapy
D. Treatment modality considered dehumanizing because it makes the patient adopt someone else's values and beliefs	4. Confidentiality
E. Answering a patient's questions honestly	5. Privacy
F. Conduct that is a departure from that expected of a prudent person	6. Veracity
G. The right of the competent person to choose a plan of life or action	7. Tort law
H. The duty to respect privileged information	8. Psychopharmacology
I. The condition of limited access to a person	9. Negligence
J. First do no harm	10. Utilitarianism
	11. Fidelity

**TOTAL = 25**