

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2019

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**

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Question 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Select the response that best answers each of the following questions. In your answer booklet indicate your chosen answer by writing the alphabet next to the question number e.g., 55 = t (1 mark each).

1. A nursing instructor is teaching nursing students about principles of ethics in health care, and she tells them that the utmost important principle to observe while taking care of a patient is doing no harm. The principle of Ethics described here is:
 - a) Beneficence
 - b) Justice
 - c) Nonmaleficence
 - d) Respect for autonomy

2. A researcher tries to invent a new vaccine for cancer cure, he injects himself with cancer cells to see its impact on human blood chemistry and then through his own blood samples he will further progress to synthesise a vaccine for the prevention of occurrence of a fatal cancer. The principle involved here is:
 - a) Beneficence
 - b) Justice
 - c) Nonmaleficence
 - d) Autonomy

3. A 25 year-old healthy male dies in a fatal road traffic accident; he has advance directives about his organ donations. Health care rationing of organs take multiple factors into account for deciding who will be recipient of an organ. Social utility, equity, equality, distributive justice, beneficence and expected life expectancy after organ transplantation are perspectives that play a role in allocating scarce organs to recipients, as waiting lists are lengthy and decision is tough. The most likely recipient of an organ from this donor will be:
 - a) A 45 year-old alcoholic with irreversible liver failure.
 - b) A 35 year-old young entrepreneur with acute renal failure.
 - c) A 75 year-old female with an extreme form of dementia and end stage renal failure.
 - d) A 40 year-old female with heart failure and is HIV positive.

4. 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.

5. Clients receiving psychiatric care have a right to determine their own treatment plan. This right is based on the ethical principle of
 - a. Informed consent.
 - b. Beneficence.
 - c. Non-maleficence.
 - d. Autonomy.

6. The statement "Does the decision adhere to the rules of right and wrong?" is a reflection of
 - a. Deontology.
 - b. Utilitarianism.
 - c. Egoism.
 - d. Christian approach.

7. Fidelity is best described by
 - a. The health care provider must be truthful.
 - b. The responsibility of the health care provider is to treat all people in the same fair manner.
 - c. Health care resources must be allocated so that the best is done for a greater number of people.
 - d. The health care provider has an obligation to be faithful to commitments made to others and avoid deception.

8. Informed consent may be given by
 - a. A 13-year old mother for the circumcision of her newborn son
 - b. A 21-year old after 3 glasses of wine and a 6 pack of beer
 - c. A 54-year old mentally challenged female client
 - d. A nurse taking care of a client in an emergency situation

9. Non-maleficence means
 - a. Provide positive actions to help others
 - b. First do no harm
 - c. Tell the truth
 - d. Protection of privacy

10. In psychiatry, the treatment method that controls behaviour by inculcating new values and attitudes is
 - a. Electroconvulsive therapy.
 - b. Psychopharmacology.
 - c. Psychotherapy.
 - d. Psychosurgery.

11. An individual is reflecting ethical thoughts from the school of Utilitarianism 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."

12. The word most closely associated with the ethic of caring is
 - a) Veracity.
 - b) Empathy.
 - c) Dilemma.
 - d) Sympathy.

13. The condition of limited access to a person is
 - a) Confidentiality.
 - b) Secrecy.
 - c) Privacy.
 - d) Security.

14. The nurse in a unit is caring for several clients. To distribute nursing care the nurse used the principle of triage due to limited resources. The nurse is promoting which ethical principle
 - a) Fidelity.
 - b) Justice.
 - c) Veracity.
 - d) Confidentiality.

15. The strongest motivating ethical principle in the provision of nursing care is
 - a) Autonomy.
 - b) Utility.
 - c) Beneficence.
 - d) Non-maleficence.

16. The first step when using an ethical decision-making model in patient care is
 - a) Identifying possible actions.
 - b) Determining the nature of the problem.
 - c) Exploring patient wishes.
 - d) Calculating potential outcomes.

17. Micro-allocation of resources is an ethical concept that is concerned with the
 - a) Family
 - b) Individual
 - c) Society
 - d) Hospital

18. In psychiatry, the treatment method that controls behaviour by changing emotions and suppressing one's personality is
 - a) Electro-convulsive therapy.
 - b) Psychosurgery.
 - c) Psychotherapy.
 - d) Psychopharmacology.

19. Parents of a foetus with multiple anomalies decide to have an abortion because "our child would have no quality of life and would impact negatively on what we could do for our other children". The parents' decision reflects the ethical concept of
 - a) Utilitarianism.
 - b) Deontology.
 - c) Christian ethics.
 - d) Egotism.

20. The major conceptual foundation of deontology, a system of ethical thought, is that people have a specific duty to
- Consider the consequences of decisions in relation to others.
 - Maximise good and minimise harm within society.
 - Do what is right always.
 - Bend rules when it will help the patient.
21. When information is presented so that the patient can make an informed decision, the health care provider's teaching is based on the principle of
- Justice.
 - Autonomy.
 - Veracity.
 - Non-maleficence.
22. Mvemve is taken to the emergency room by the police. He is very demanding and pacing the floor. The ER nurse says to Mvemve "If you do not calm down and be quiet, I am going to put you in restraints". This type of treatment could implicate the nurse for which of the following?
- Battery.
 - Assault.
 - Defamation of character.
 - False imprisonment.
23. Mvemve becomes assaultive in the ER. The doctor orders a *STAT* injection of chlorpromazine to calm Mvemve down. Mvemve shouts, "Get away from me with that needle. I will sue you." Under which of the following conditions are the staff protected from legal action?
- Mvemve is considered "gravely disabled" and in need of help.
 - This is an emergency situation and Mvemve is a danger to self and others.
 - This type of situation is covered by civil law.
 - This type of situation is covered by common law.
24. The nurse states, "I know Sipho does not want to be put into restraints but we must do so for the protection of staff and other clients". This is an example of which ethical philosophy?
- Utilitarianism.
 - Egoism.
 - Deontology.
 - Altruism.
25. You are one of the vaccinators in a Measles-Rubella campaign. One mother hesitates since she verbalises that it would hurt her son. As a well-versed nurse about ethical considerations you explain to the mother that it may cause a discomfort but it will protect her son from acquiring the said diseases. What principle have you utilised?
- Nonmaleficence
 - Beneficence
 - Justice

d) Autonomy

Question 2

- a. A 65-year-old man comes to his physicians with complaints of abdominal pain that is persistent but not extreme. Workup reveals that he has metastatic cancer of the pancreas. The man has just retired from a busy professional career, and he and his wife are about to leave on a round-the-world cruise that they've been planning for over a year.

Explain whether the patient should be informed about his diagnosis or not? (5)

- b. An 80-year-old Asian woman is hospitalised with weight loss, generalised weakness, and a pulmonary mass. Work-up reveals that she has pulmonary tuberculosis. Her family approaches the physician and asks that the patient not be told, stating that in her upbringing in mainland China tuberculosis was considered fatal and to tell her would be like giving her "a death sentence."

As a health care provider, how would you deal with the concerns raised? (5)

- c. A 55-year-old man has a 3-month history of chest pain and fainting spells. You feel his symptoms merit cardiac catheterisation. You explain the risks and potential benefits to him, and include your assessment of his likely prognosis without the intervention. He is able to demonstrate that he understands all of this, but refuses the intervention.

Can he do that, legally? Should you leave it at that? (5)

- d. A 4-year-old with an obviously broken forearm is brought to the emergency department by her baby-sitter. Both the baby-sitter and emergency room staff have attempted to reach her parents without success.

Explain why you would treat the child without parental permission? (5)

- e. A 5-year-old child has just had his second generalised tonic-clonic seizure in a 4 month period. You have recommended starting an anticonvulsant. The parents have concerns about the recommended medication and would prefer to wait and see if their son has more seizures.

How should you respond to the parents' request? (5)

TOTAL: 25 marks

Question 3

- a). Dr. Makhiwane had an 82-year old mother who was suffering from chronic heart failure. The only thing keeping her alive was the medications which she had been taking for the past 13 years. However, she had no quality of life as she could not even bathe herself or feed herself. One day, Dr. Makhiwane decided to stop giving his mother the medications to hasten

her death because the family was having a stressful time taking care of her. A couple of days later, Dr. Makhiwane's mother died. Critique the manner in which Dr. Makhiwane handled his mother's illness. (15)

b). Write brief, self-explanatory notes on

- i) Fidelity (5)
- ii) Criticism of psychosurgery as a treatment modality (5)

TOTAL = 25