

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

FINAL EXAMINATION MAY 2008

COURSE TITLE: ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE II

COURSE CODE: NUR 206

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS**
- 3. ONE MARK ALLOCATED FOR EACH CORRECT FACT UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED**

THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVILIGATOR

QUESTION 1

- 1.1 A signed consent form is required for:
- (a) Routine treatment
 - (b) Surgical procedures
 - (c) Invasive diagnostic procedures
 - (d) All of the above.
- 1.2 A nursing student, Mr. Nkosi, tells his peers that he is caring for Sam Jones, a local politician suffering from AIDS. Mr. Nkosi would be charged with:
- (a) Invasion of privacy
 - (b) Defamation of character
 - (c) Libel
 - (d) Negligence
- 1.3 Mrs. Zile, a registered nurse is offered a job in a hospital where abortion is legalized. In this hospital, two to three abortions are done each day. Mrs. Zile works in the operating room; she is strongly opposed to abortion but likes all other aspects of the job. Mrs. Zile should:
- (a) Assist with the abortion, remembering that her personal values should not influence her professional action.
 - (b) Ask if the employer has a "conscience clause" that would allow her to refuse to assist with abortion.
 - (c) Contact the local profile group to discuss her rights in assisting with the abortions.
 - (d) Reject the job offer and seek employment elsewhere.
- 1.4 Which statement about the nursing student's legal liability is correct?
- (a) A student who has safely administered oral medication may perform this task when employed as a nurse aide.
 - (b) Students are expected to perform at the level of registered nurses
 - (c) A student instructor may share liability when a student's action or inaction injures a client.
 - (d) A student cannot be held liable for performing tasks that are being learned
- 1.5 A health care issue often becomes an ethical dilemma because:
- (a) A client's legal rights coexist with a health professional's obligation
 - (b) Decisions must be made quickly, often under stressful conditions
 - (c) Decisions must be made based on the value system
 - (d) The choices involved do not appear to be clearly right or wrong

- 1.6 The individual beliefs, attitudes, standards and ideals that guide behaviour and how one experiences life is a
- (a) Legal obligation
 - (b) Personal value
 - (c) Moral belief
 - (d) Ethical issue
- 1.7 A basic structure against which competent care is objectively measured is:
- (a) Law
 - (b) Principle
 - (c) Standard
 - (d) Code
- 1.8 Which statement about an institutional ethics committee is correct?
- (a) The ethics committee is an additional resource for clients and health care professionals
 - (b) The ethics committee relieves health care professionals from dealing with ethical issues
 - (c) The ethics committee would be the first option in addressing an ethical dilemma
 - (d) The ethics committee replaces decisions making by the client and health care providers
- 1.9 The employer has certain obligations towards the nurse employee. These include all of the following EXCEPT:
- (a) Establishing an environment in which the nurse can practice ethically and professionally
 - (b) Establishing favourable working conditions
 - (c) Providing clear policy statements
 - (d) Providing continuing education
- 1.10 The principle of beneficence refers to:
- (a) The obligation of nurse and patient to tell the truth
 - (b) The obligation to do good or promote good while preventing or minimizing harm
 - (c) The respect for individual autonomy
 - (d) Maximizing liberty for all

1.11 In egoism

- (a) One should not consider only the consequences of a particular act but rather the kind of act.
- (b) Something is good because the person desires it
- (c) The best consequences are for self, for everyone and for some
- (d) None of the above

1.12 The purpose of collective bargaining is to:

- a. Arrange relations between employers and employees
- b. Prevent the employee from speaking with the union
- c. Prevent and settle disputes by negotiation between employers and employees over which it has no control
- d. Enforce discipline to the employees

1.13 Informed consent acts to:

- a. Do good and not harm other people
- b. Inform patients about their conditions
- c. Provide the subjects with adequate information regarding participation in a study
- d. Ensure that most decisions we make also affect others

Question 1.14-1.25 are True and False questions. Write True or False next to the number of the question.

1.14 It is the nurse's responsibility to obtain client consent for medical and surgical procedures.

1.15 A nurse following an inaccurate physician's order is legally responsible for any harm suffered by the client.

1.16 The medical officer in charge of a hospital has the authority to suspend or revoke a nurse's licence.

1.17 The principle of justice claims that an action is right if it tends to produce the greatest balance of value over disvalue.

1.18 The Swaziland Nurses Code of ethics is like other professional codes, has no legal force, as opposed to the licensure laws promulgated by the Swaziland Nursing Council.

1.19 Common law concepts indicate that every one person has the right to insist that others should not injure him by their acts of commission.

1.20 The patient's wishes are respected with regard to treatment which is contrary to his religious beliefs, even if life is at stake.

- 1.21 It is proper for a nurse to use the authority and trust that is derived from the therapeutic relationship with a client.
- 1.22 Autonomy is overriding of individual choices or intentional actions in order to provide benefit to that individual.
- 1.23 Justice is concerned about how benefits and burdens ought to be justly distributed.
- 1.24 Teleology moral theories are helpful when one has to make decisions about health care delivery.
- 1.25 Professional codes of conduct are the profession's non-negotiable ethical standards.

TOTAL 25 MARKS

QUESTION 2

- (a) Explain the differences between passive and active euthanasia. 5 marks
- (b) Describe the expected behaviours from nurses with regard to the following ethical values:
- (i) Sanctity of life 5 marks
 - (ii) Veracity 5 marks
 - (iii) Client choice 5 marks
 - (iv) Client wellbeing 5 marks

TOTAL 25 MARKS

QUESTION 3

- (a) Explain the purposes served by professional codes and conduct. 5 marks
- (b) A woman is admitted to the Casualty Department with multiple injuries to her abdomen and face. At first she explains that she fell from a ladder. On examination, it is clear that she has several injuries in different stages of healing. She is also nervous and tries to avoid answering questions. Discuss the case using the principles of:
- (i) Privacy
 - (ii) Autonomy
 - (iii) Veracity
 - (iv) Fidelity
 - (v) Beneficence and non maleficence 10 marks
 - (vi)
- (c) Describe the Husted's formal ethical decision-making model 10 marks