

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2008-2009

TITLE : ETHICAL ISSUES, DILEMMAS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN MENTAL HEALTH NURSING

COURSE : NUR 451

DURATION : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 60

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS**
- 3. NO PAPER SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO NOR OUT OF THE EXAMINATION ROOM**
- 4. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER**

DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

Question 1

Mr. X has been receiving dialysis 3 times a week for the past one year. Efforts to get a compatible organ donor have been unsuccessful. His medical aid scheme informed him two months ago that he had used up all his allowances. The hospital is now telling Mr. X that it will stop performing the dialysis because it is too expensive a procedure and is depriving other critically ill patients, with chances of recovery, essential space and resources for care. What ethical theory and principles are at play in this situation. (20)

TOTAL = 20

Question 2

Kevin, a 40 year old with Bipolar II has been admitted several times to manage the manic phase of the disorder he often experiences. He admits that he does not adhere to the prescribed lithium medication as required. Knowing that non-compliance is a major factor in Kevin's condition, other nurses become frustrated as he has gained the reputation of being non-compliant. During one of Kevin's relapses, nurse Xulu says to Kevin "we have discussed this so many times Kevin. You must take the medication as prescribed". Kevin retorts "you do not understand. I hate having to function well only on a pill everyday and be different from everybody else. This is my decision to make, not yours". Other nurses decide not to care for Kevin again since he wastes their time and may deprive other patients who are cooperative of the care they need.

How would you, as a nurse, deal with the above situation using each of the following ethical theories

- a) Utilism
- b) Deontology
- c) Egoism
- d) Christian approach

TOTAL = 20

Question 3

Approaches in the management of psychiatric conditions have received a number of criticisms from ethicists. Highlight some of the criticisms that have been leveled on each of the following

- a) Psychotherapy (6)
- b) Psychopharmacology (5)
- c) child psychiatry (9)

TOTAL = 20