

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2009

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**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR**

Question 1 Objective questions

1A. Matching. Match the words in column B with the correct meaning or response in column A, e.g. 56 = r, ($\frac{1}{2}$ point each).

Column A	Column B
1. Manwele decides to go against family wishes and tell the client of his terminal status because that is what she would want if she were the client	a. Utilitarianism
2. Tiny decides to respect the family wishes and not tell the client of his terminal status because that would bring the most happiness to the most people	b. Deontology
3. Mumcy decides not to tell the client about his terminal status because it would be too uncomfortable for her to do so	c. Christian ethics
4. Thandeka decides to tell the client of his terminal status because her reasoning tells her that to do otherwise would be an evil act.	d. Natural-law theories
5. Carol decides to tell the client of his terminal status because she believes it is her duty to do so.	e. Ethical egoism
6. The nurse assists the physician with a procedure on a client who has refused to give consent	f. Breach of confidentiality
7. When the newspaper calls to inquire why a minister has been admitted to the hospital, the nurse replies, "he's here because he is an alcoholic".	g. Defamation of character
8. A competent, voluntary client has stated he wants to leave the hospital. The nurse hides his clothes in an effort to keep him from leaving.	h. Assault
9. Jack recently lost his wife and is very depressed. He is running for re-election to the Senate and asks the staff to keep his hospitalisation confidential. The nurse is excited about having a senator on the unit and tells her boyfriend about the admission, which soon becomes common knowledge. Jack loses the election	i. Battery
10. Mike is very restless and is pacing a lot. The nurse says to Mike, "If you don't sit down in the chair and be still, I'm going to put you in restraints!"	j. False imprisonment

1B. Multiple Choice. Select the response that best answers each of the following questions (**1 mark each**).

1. Which of the following describes the ethical principle of beneficence?
 - A. The right of the competent person to choose a personal plan of life and action
 - B. The obligation of the health care provider to help people in need
 - C. The duty of health care provider to do no harm
 - D. The responsibility of the healthcare provider to treat all in the same fair manner

2. Which of the following describes the ethical principle of utilitarianism?
 - A. Health care resources are allocated so that the best is done for the greatest number of people.
 - B. The health care provider must be truthful and avoid deception.
 - C. The health care provider has an obligation to be faithful to commitments made to self and others.
 - D. The responsibility of the health care provider is to treat all people in the same fair manner

3. Ethical principles provide the user with
 - A. Guidelines
 - B. Absolutes
 - C. Suggestions
 - D. Laws

4. The word most closely associated with the ethic of caring is
 - A. Veracity
 - B. Empathy
 - C. Dilemma
 - D. Negotiation

5. To best help parents confronted with a perinatal moral dilemma, the nurse must approach the situation with

- A. A good judgement
- B. Unwavering values
- C. A personal moral philosophy
- D. A decision-making framework

6. When assessing whether a procedural risk to a mother or foetus is justified, the ethical principle underlying the dilemma is

- A. Nonmaleficence
- B. Informed consent
- C. Self-determination
- D. Respect for the foetus

7. An ethical dilemma unique to perinatal nursing is the

- A. Risk of maleficence
- B. Intensive use of technology
- C. Innate conflict between maternal and foetal rights
- D. Shrinking of health care resources

8. Informed consent refers to

- A. Principle of autonomy
- B. Voluntary but uninformed decision-making
- C. Permission to participate in research
- D. A voluntary decision to undergo a medical procedure, by a competent individual, who has received and understood the necessary information.

9. Informed consent is important because
- A. It enables participants to understand vital information on proposed methods of treatment.
 - B. It provides participants with all information regarding remote risks
 - C. It enables the investigator to recruit research participants of his/her choice
 - D. It promotes clinical research
10. Who gives consent in cases of minors who have no parents or guardians
- A. Consent can be waived, it is not necessary
 - B. Nobody
 - C. A social worker
 - D. A legal guardian
11. The condition of limited access to a person is
- A. Confidentiality
 - B. Secrecy
 - C. Security
 - D. Privacy
12. Ethical nursing care will not include
- A. Respecting sanctity and quality of life
 - B. Ensuring privacy
 - C. Facilitating unfairness in the allocation of resources
 - D. Respecting truthfulness

13. Informed consent may be given by whom
- A. A 21-year old after 3 glasses of wine and a 6 pack of beer
 - B. A 13-year old for the circumcision of her newborn son
 - C. A 54-year old mentally challenged resident
 - D. A nurse taking care of a client in an emergency
14. Non-maleficence requires the nurse to
- A. Tell the truth
 - B. Provide positive actions to help others
 - C. First do no harm
 - D. Answer for one's actions.
15. A student nurse mistakenly gives aminophylline instead of acetaminophen. The student nurse
- A. Is held to the same standard and legal limits as a registered nurse
 - B. Fills out an incident report and never administers medication again
 - C. Notifies the supervising physician and cries, begs and pleads for another chance
 - D. Should not have administered medications till graduation
16. According to the Code of Professional Nursing Conduct for Swaziland, the protection of a patient's rights and safety
- A. Allows the nurse to refuse to participate in morally questionable research projects
 - B. Prohibits intervening, through established protocols, in the impaired practice of other care givers
 - C. Permits breaking of confidentiality, if the nurse finds a patient's behaviours personally offensive
 - D. Is not the responsibility of nurse administrators

17. A patient receiving palliative care for metastatic cancer of the breast begins asking for increased dosages of morphine for her pain, beyond what the physician has ordered. The nurse is wary of over medicating for fear of hastening the patient's death. The nurse should

- A. Accept the patient's report of pain and give dosages to the maximum allowed by the order
- B. Try to convince the patient to hold back on morphine in order to preserve her decision-making skills and hence her autonomy
- C. Give the maximum amount of morphine ordered and call the physician to increase the dose to minimize the patient's pain and help hasten her death
- D. Give the maximum amount of morphine ordered and call the physician to increase the dose in order to achieve the patient's comfort

18. A nurse-midwife has been through lectures for assisted forceps delivery but has not had a patient for forceps delivery since the lectures. The delivery ward is understaffed on that day and a patient requiring forceps delivery presents. The nurse is uncomfortable with her knowledge base but has the forceps delivery orientation book with her. According to the Code of Practice, which of the following actions should the nurse take in this scenario?

- A. Recognize her knowledge-base deficit and so should make management aware and refuse to do the procedure
- B. Make management aware of her concerns and should not take the assignment unless an experienced midwife on forceps delivery is available to work with her until she feels she can provide safe care
- C. Since she knows that the ward is understaffed, she should take the assignment despite her concerns
- D. As long as she has the forceps delivery book guide with her, she should perform the procedure

19. The Code of Ethics does not include which of the following

- A. Respect for persons regardless of health problems or economic status
- B. Respect only for those receiving nursing care
- C. Support for patients' rights to self-determination
- D. Supportive care for those in the dying process

20. All of the following are strengths of utilitarianism except
- Outlines methods for decision-making
 - Unbiased
 - Preserves individuality
 - Focuses on society

(20)

Total = 25

Question 2

Case: Momo, a 25-year old female was voluntarily admitted to a psychiatric unit two weeks ago. For the past 2 days Momo has been exhibiting agitated outbursts at other patients and last night picked a fight with Nurse Nora. Momo was physically restrained and taken to the Seclusion Room. Momo admits that she has not been taking her prescribed medication since admission. Nurse Nora considers limiting Momo's privilege of visiting town in the afternoons until she complies with treatment prescribed. Momo is disgruntled and voices that she should decide whether she takes her medication or not.

- What ethical principle is at issue in this scenario? Substantiate your answer. (10)
- Does Nurse Nora have the right to limit Momo's privileges? (15)

Total = 25

Question 3

Case: Zwelakhe, a 25-year old banker visits the VCT centre in Gbarnga where he consults nurse Njiro for an HIV test. During the initial discussion Zwelakhe tells Nurse Njiro that he is engaged to a 22 -year old nurse and they intend getting married in 6 months time. The HIV test results later show that Zwelakhe is HIV positive. At post-test counselling Nurse Njiro asks Zwelakhe how he will deal with his HIV positive status in light of the imminent wedding to his fiancée. Zwelakhe tells Nurse Njiro that he will not disclose his status because he does not want his wedding plans jeopardized.

- What is nurse Njiro's obligation towards Zwelakhe? (10)
- Does Nurse Njiro have any obligation towards Zwelakhe's fiancée? (15)

Total = 25