

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2009-2010**

**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., a 70-year old man, with diabetes developed cyanosis on his right big toe a month after a below-the-knee amputation of his left leg. He has been depressed since. Because of his depressed mood, nurses on the Surgical Unit lied to Mr. X. when they received a wound culture report of Pseudomonas. They placed an "infection control" sign over his bed and told him he had a urinary tract infection. Nurses were afraid to tell him the laboratory findings because they did not want to increase Mr. X's fears of losing his other leg. They decided not to tell him anything. Eventually his right foot became gangrenous and required amputation.

Critique the manner in which nurses on the Surgical Unit handled Mr. X's situation, highlighting the possible impacts their actions had on Mr. X. (20)

**TOTAL = 20**

**Question 2**

Kevin, a 40 year old with Bipolar Disorder 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**

Write self-explanatory notes on the following ethical principles and rules/duties

- a) Autonomy (5)
- b) Veracity (5)
- c) Fidelity (5)
- d) Justice (5)

**TOTAL = 20**