

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
MAIN EXAMINATION, MAY 2011

COURSE NAME: ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE II

COURSE CODE: NUR 206

TOTAL MARKS: 75 MARKS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY**
- **ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A**
- **SELECT ANY TWO QUESTIONS OF YOUR CHOICE IN SECTION B**
- **BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE**

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Question 1

Select the **most appropriate** response in each of the following questions (questions 1.1 to 1.25).

Write selected your responses in the answer book provided; **E.g. 1.1d**

1.1 Which of the following is not true about the enactment of laws in health care?

- a. Laws were enacted to make provisions for sanctions in health care
- b. Laws were enacted to define what is meant by practice of nursing care
- c. Laws were enacted to minimise reliance on ethics in health care
- d. Laws were enacted to regulate health care

A nurse migrates from state x to state y. The following questions relate to this scenario.

1.2 State y evaluates and registers nurse x expressly without requiring him/ her to undergo the state's nursing education system. This action by state y is called;

- a. exemption
- b. accreditation
- a. certification
- d. Reciprocity

1.3 Assuming that state y allows nurse x to simply add his/her name onto the register, which of the following statements would apply?

- a. nurse x would be obligated to maintain her registration in state y in order to practice her nursing profession

- b. nurse x would not be obligated to maintain her registration in order to practice her nursing profession
- c. nurse x would be required to go through an accreditation process
- d. nurse x would not be required to go through an accreditation process

1.4 Which of the following statements is true?

- a. Certification and licensure are synonymous
- b. Certification and licensure are antonyms
- c. Registration and licensing bodies may be synonymous
- d. None of the above

1.5 Which of the following statements is true about health care?

- a. legal practice reflects professionalism in health care
- b. ethical practice reflects professional practice in health care
- c. ethical practice is synonymous with legal practice in health care
- d. Ethical practice and legal practice reflect professional practice in health care

Nomakhosi is a 40 year old patient resident in a surgical ward of a public hospital who has been scheduled for a histotomy of the breast to remove a benign mass. Siziwe, a nurse on duty asks the Nomakhosi to consent for the procedure as part of pre-operative care per the custom of the hospital. Whilst on the operative bed, the surgeon finds that the mass on Nomakhosi's breast has grown too big, such that he has to remove the entire breast to completely excise the mass. The surgeon proceeds to excise the mass, removing the breast in the process. Questions 1.6 to 1.10 relate to this scenario.

1.6 Identify the ethical issue that confronts the Siziwe in this scenario.

- a. The doctor has been untruthful in his dealing with Nomakhosi
- b. Siziwe has breached the principle of justice
- c. Siziwe has been untruthful in her dealings with Nomakhosi
- d. None of the above

1.7 Nomakhosi decides to sue the hospital for the loss of her breast. Identify the health care worker who is the primary respondent in this matter from the following;

- a. Siziwe
- b. The matron
- c. The hospital administrator
- d. The senior medical officer

1.8 Which of the following would be a strong defense in favour of Siziwe in this case?

- a. Siziwe is not the one that conducted the operation and therefore cannot be held responsible for another health professional's actions.
- b. Siziwe had no prior way of knowing that the breast histotomy would result in complete removal of the breast and therefore could not tell this to the patient before hand
- c. Siziwe acted in her capacity as a health professional when requiring a signed consent from Nomakhosi
- d. None of the above

1.9 Which of the following statements would be a strong argument against Siziwe in this scenario?

- a. Siziwe should have obtained authority from the surgeon to have the patient sign a consent
- b. Siziwe should not have required a consent from a patient she was not going to operate on
- c. Siziwe should have disclosed all information to Nomakhosi including benefits and complications of the operative procedure
- d. All of the above

1.10 From an ethical perspective, which of the following would have been or was the most appropriate action of the surgeon?

- a. The surgeon rightfully used his medical judgement to remove Nomakhosi's breast as she was already under anaesthesia and had no capacity to consent.
- b. The surgeon should have required Nomakhosi's husband to consent on Nomakhosi's behalf as she was under anaesthesia and in no condition to
- c. The surgeon should not have removed Nomakhosi's breast, but rather returned her to the ward in order to give her an opportunity to give an informed consent
- d. The surgeon should have alerted the senior medical officer and matron so that he may be covered in case Nomakhosi wants to sue later

1.11 The name given to one that consents on another's behalf is called;

- a. A proxy
- b. A paternalist
- c. A guardian
- d. All of the above

1.12 The act by the health care team of making a decision regarding a patient's health care, whilst disregarding the wishes of the patient in the process is called;

- a. Proxism
- b. Paternalism
- c. Natalism
- d. Guardianship

1.13 Which of the following statements best reflect the meaning of a right?

- a. Something that one is entitled to
- b. Something that one is obligated to do
- c. Something that one has a benefit of
- d. All of the above

1.14 Identify a privilege from the following statements;

- a. TakaNgwane receives free treatment from the clinic where she works herself as a member of staff.
- b. TakaNgwane receives her pay cheque at the bank by the 15th of each month
- c. both a and b
- d. none of the above

1.15 Identify a patient's duty from each of the following statements

- a. Privacy and personal dignity maintained
- b. Receive emergency treatment regardless of ability to pay
- c. Consideration of other patients and see that own visitors do the same

d. All of the above

1.16 One of the following statements is true concerning rights. Which one is it?

- a. Rights cannot exist without duties corresponding to them
- b. Rights are synonymous to duties
- c. Rights function best without any duties burdening them
- d. Rights and duties have corresponding obligations or responsibilities

Nomahlubi is a 10 year old patient in a children's surgical ward. Zintombi, a nurse on duty, attempts to give Zintombi an antibiotic intramuscularly, as per the doctor's order. Nomahlubi however refuses to have the injection stating that she does not want any injection because she will feel pain. Nomahlubi's parents/ guardians are away and cannot be reached by Zintombi. The following questions relate to this scenario.

1.17 Identify the most appropriate action by Zintombi from each of the following statements;

- a. Zintombi should honour Nomahlubi's right to self-determination and not give her the injection
- b. Zintombi should use her clinical judgment and forcefully give Nomahlubi the injection any way
- c. Zintombi should remember that she cannot defy the doctor's prescription or else she will be liable
- d. Zintombi should not give the injection and report to the doctor that made the order.

1.18 Give the rationale for your response chosen in 1.17 above

- a. Because the right to self determination is a human right
- b. Because Zintombi knows better than Nomahlubi who may not the understand the consequences of her refusal to have the injection.
- c. Because Zintombi's job description as a nurse at the hospital includes execution of doctor's orders.
- d. Because the doctor bears the responsibility of the burden to treat Nomahlubi

1.19 If the hospital protocol dictates that Nomahlubi be given the injection regardless of whether she wills it or not, which of the following rights would the hospital be defiance of?

- a. Nomahlubi's right to self determination
- b. Nomahlubi's right to be treated with respect and courtesy
- c. Nomahlubi's right to justice
- d. Nomahlubi's right to have privacy maintained

1.20 By refusing to adhere/ to accept treatment prescribed, which of the following duties is Nomahlubi in breach of?

- a. The duty to participate in decision making regarding Nomahlubi's plan of care
- b. The duty to follow Zintombi's instructions and assist them in their efforts to return to health.
- c. The duty to ask the doctor if he/she has any conflict of interest that directly affects Nomahlubi's care.
- d. All of the above

1.21 Which of the following statements would be Nomahlubi's best argument if she were to appear in a court of law?

- a. That Nomahlubi has the right to accept or refuse treatment

- b. That Nomahlubi had no capacity to understand comprehensively the consequences of her actions
- c. That the doctor should have anticipated that Nomahlubi would refuse treatment and made provisions for that
- d. none of the above

1.22 What could have been done by Zintombi to ascertain that Nomahlubi's right to understand her diagnosis, treatment and possible outcome is fulfilled?

- a. Zintombi should have given Nomahlubi's guardian or relatives all the information pertaining to Nomahlubi's care
- b. Zintombi should have called the doctor to give Nomahlubi's guardian or relative all the information regarding her care
- c. Zintombi should have given Nomahlubi's parents complete information in plain language and at the level of Nomahlubi's parents.
- d. Zintombi should have given Nomahlubi complete information in plain language and at the level of Nomahlubi

Dennis a newly qualified state registered nurse obtains employment in a hospital where the nursing staff has engaged in industrial action against management over annual salary increments. A week after Denis commences work, the nursing workforce downs tools, leaving all patients without nursing care and demonstrates outside the hospital against management wishes. The following questions relate to this scenario.

1.23 From an ethical perspective which of the following would be the most appropriate action for Denis and why?

- a. Denis has a duty to his employer to care for the patients under his care and should not participate in the boycott
- b. Denis has a duty to maintain solidarity with his nurse colleagues at his workplace and should participate in the boycott
- c. Denis should not participate in the boycott as he is new and is not yet party to the misgivings of his colleagues
- d. Denis has a duty to care for patients entrusted under his care regardless of the circumstances and should not participate in the boycott

1.24 Should Denis not participate in the boycott, which of the following would be the most serious consequence?

- a. Denis risks his safety, his patients, and the property of his employer as his colleagues might attempt to forcefully stop him from caring for the patients
- b. Denis might be denied membership into the nurse's union in future as he has shown to be a sell out
- c. Denis may not be granted the benefits that the union is fighting for as he has failed to show solidarity
- d. None of the above

1.25 Should Denis participate in the boycott, which of the following would be his strongest defense?

- a. It is imperative to show solidarity to colleagues in times of trouble
- b. As a responsible nurse, Denis was protecting the safety his patients, and the hospital property, as well as himself by participating in the boycott
- c. The salary increment benefit that Denis's colleagues are fighting for will also benefit him; therefore it is important to join in the fight

d. None of the above

SECTION B

Question 2

2.1 Discuss the decision component of consent.

(5 marks)

2.2 What is the relationship between a consent and veracity? Give examples to justify your answer.

(10 marks)

2.3 Discuss any scenario in nursing practice where it may be morally acceptable not to honour a patient's right to autonomy. Justify your argument.

(10 marks)

Question 3

Gogo Zindela, a 98 year old woman is diagnosed with advanced cancer of the lungs after a long illness. Gogo Zindela requires life support and is put on a respirator for 12 months in intensive care. There are two respirators in the hospital. The hospital health care team discusses gogo Zindela's care and resolves to withdraw the use of the respirator from gogo Zindela. Gogo Zindela's family also supports this move by the hospital and feels it is the best under the circumstances. The following questions relate to this scenario.

3.1 What is the name given to the act/ decision to withdraw the respirator from Gogo Zindela?

(1 mark)

3.2 Discuss the ethical and legal issues associated with the identified act in 3.1 above.

(24 marks)

Question 4

Eric and Sdumo are best of friends and happen to be nurses working together in the same clinic. Sdumo is a single father who's 15 year old daughter, Nosmilo, comes to Eric at the clinic requiring an injection for family planning. Nosmilo confesses that she has been sexually active for some time and was using a condom. She says she has recently had a new boyfriend who does not believe in condom use. Relate the following questions to this scene.

4.1 Identify and describe any 5 ethical issues confronting Eric in this case. **(10 marks)**

4.2 Eric considers disclosing Nosmilo's visit to her father Sdumo in a bid to help both his beloved friend and his client Nosmilo. Discuss the ethical and legal implications of this action.

(15marks)