

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER MAY 2021

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

COURSE : NUR 451/CHN451 IDE

DURATION : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
 - 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS**

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QUESTION 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Select the response that best answers each of the following questions. In your answer booklet indicate your chosen answer by writing the alphabet next to the question number e.g., 88 = R (1 mark each).

1. Which of the following describes the ethical principle of non-maleficence?
 - A. The right of the competent patient 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 the health care provider to do no harm.
 - D. The responsibility of the health care provider to treat all in the same fair manner.

2. In psychiatry, the treatment method that controls behaviour by changing emotions and suppressing one's personality is
 - A. Electro-convulsive therapy
 - B. Psychosurgery
 - C. Psychotherapy
 - D. Psychopharmacology

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

4. External constraints can influence voluntariness in situations related to informed consent. These constraints least likely include
 - A. Significant trauma
 - B. Coercion
 - C. Fraud
 - D. Undue violence

5. A 25 year-old healthy male dies in a fatal road traffic accident; he has advance directives about his organ donations. Health care rationing of organs take multiple factors into account for deciding who will be recipient of an organ. Social utility, equity, equality, distributive justice, beneficence and expected life expectancy after organ transplantation are perspectives that play a role in allocating scarce organs to recipients, as waiting lists are lengthy and decision is tough. The most likely recipient of an organ from this donor will be:
 - A. A 45 year-old man with alcoholism and irreversible liver failure.
 - B. A 35 year-old young male entrepreneur with acute renal failure.
 - C. A 75 year-old female with dementia and end-stage renal failure.
 - D. A 40 year-old female with chronic heart failure and is HIV positive.

6. The principles or standards that influence behaviour and decision-making which are based on experience, religion, education and culture are called
- Values
 - Morals
 - Ethics
 - Standards of practice
7. Which of the following is not a way to enhance autonomy?
- Focus first on general goals not technical options.
 - Disagreements should initiate a process of mutual exchange.
 - The nurse makes the final decision on nursing management.
 - Recommendations must consider both clinical facts and personal experiences.
8. Before nurse Nhleko administered a client's medication, he assessed the client's needs for drugs, and followed the "rights" in drug preparation and administration. After Nurse Nhleko had given the dose, he evaluated the client's response to the medication given. Nurse Nhleko is promoting
- Veracity
 - Autonomy
 - Responsibility
 - Accountability
9. A nurse's obligation to the client least likely includes
- Considering the dignity of clients
 - Retaining a commitment to the welfare of the client
 - Maintaining conditions of employment that satisfy the goals of nursing
 - Holding confidential all information about a client learned in a health care setting
10. An individual is reflecting ethical thoughts from the school of utilitarianism when making the statement
- "Does the decision adhere to the rules of right and wrong?"
 - "The sanctity of life takes precedence over the quality of life"
 - "What is good or right must triumph over what is bad or wrong"
 - "Will the consequences of this decision cause a burden to society"
11. Professional accountability serves the following purpose except
- To provide a basis for ethical decision
 - To respect the decision of the client
 - To maintain standards of health
 - To evaluate new professional practices and reassess existing ones
12. When assisting patients to make decisions that involve ethical dilemmas, nurses must first
- Refrain from imposing their own values on patients
 - Clarify their own values in relation to the moral issues
 - Understand ethical theories and principles before making decisions
 - Elicit the thoughts and feelings of the patient and significant others

13. The nurse states, "I know Sipho does not want to be put into restraints but we must do so for the protection of staff and other clients". This is an example of which ethical philosophy?
- Utilitarianism
 - Egoism
 - Deontology
 - Kantianism
14. A benchmark or yardstick you have to achieve when providing mental health nursing care is best described as
- A code of ethics
 - A code of conduct
 - A standard of practice
 - A professional oath
15. The major conceptual foundation of deontology, a system of ethical thought, is that people have a specific duty to
- Consider the consequences of decisions in relation to others
 - Maximise good and minimise harm within society
 - Do what is right for the individual
 - Bend rules when it will help the patient
16. The Swaziland Code of Conduct for Professional nurses directs nurses to provide patient care that is
- Curative
 - Autonomous
 - Utilitarian
 - Non-judgemental
17. A Nurses' code is a set of ethical principles generally accepted by members of the profession. The standard or principle that a nurse must observe in practice should promote which duty?
- Playing a major role in determining the implementation desirable standards of nursing practice
 - Being active in developing a core of professional knowledge
 - Acting through the professional organisation and participating in establishing and maintaining equitable social and economic working conditions in nursing
 - Using judgement in relation to individual competence when accepting and delegating responsibilities
18. The notion of informed consent is related to the principle of
- Autonomy
 - Non-maleficence
 - Justice
 - Beneficence
19. Which of the following obligations do nurses have in relation to clients' health information?
- Confidentiality
 - Disclosure to family members

- C. Faxing of records to other institutions
- D. Legibility of writing

20. Which of the following situations is most professionally challenging for a nurse when making ethical decisions?
- A. His workload is too heavy to allow adequate care to be given
 - B. Lack of experience means that he is swayed by the opinions of more senior colleagues
 - C. Multiple accountabilities to the client, family, colleagues, and the law may be in conflict
 - D. His knowledge of hospital policy is not adequate
21. Which of the following actions is appropriate for the nurse to take if her 15-year-old client refuses an injection?
- a) Call his parents and ask their decision
 - b) Ask two colleagues to restrain him while she administers the injection
 - c) Take no further action
 - d) Document her client's wishes, explore the reasons for his decision, and ask for a consultation with the physician
22. Which of the following represents a dilemma with conflicting ethical and legal issues?
- a) The distribution of hospital resources within the hospital
 - b) The transfer of patients to other hospitals
 - c) The wish of a terminally ill patient to have his life ended
 - d) The withdrawal of ventilation from a person who has been declared brain dead
23. Why should nurses study ethics?
- a) It is a requirement of the nursing registration body
 - b) They need a basis from which to make decisions and be accountable
 - c) It means that they can bypass the law if a decision they make has an ethical basis
 - d) They are able to have more comprehensive discussions with client families
24. Which of the following issues represent two main areas of ethical debate in nursing practice?
- a) Access to patient files and documentation
 - b) Euthanasia and organ donation
 - c) Family presence and filming in the birthing room
 - d) Nursing assistants and nursing students participating in care
25. Which of the following factors has contributed to growth in the field of ethics in recent years?
- a) Worldwide population growth
 - b) Declining participation in organized religion
 - c) Growing sophistication in science and technology for society
 - d) Worldwide nursing shortages

QUESTION 2

A. A journalist got hospital records, through a hospital employee in the records department, about nurses who were living with AIDS and wanted to publish their names. The nurses sought legal protection against the publication of their names which the Court granted. What ethical duty was at issue against the journalist and how? (10)

B. Discuss the ethical meanings of the following terms

(i) Informed consent (6)

(ii) Fidelity (4)

iii) Divine command (5)

Total = 25

QUESTION 3

Patient rights are one of the most important moral issues nurses have to deal with. Discuss patient rights as human rights. (25)

Total = 25