

Linton: Introduction to Medical-Surgical Nursing, 5th Edition

Chapter 03: Legal and Ethical Considerations

Test Bank

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A good friend of the licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/LVN) confides that she is in a serious romantic relationship with a man the LPN/LVN had as a patient when he was diagnosed with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The policies of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) prevent the nurse from warning her friend. This situation is a moral:
 - a. Dilemma
 - b. Uncertainty
 - c. Distress
 - d. Outrage

ANS: C

Moral distress occurs when a nurse feels powerless because moral beliefs cannot be honored because of institutional or other barriers.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 32 OBJ: 1
TOP: Moral Distress KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A
MSC: NCLEX: Safe Effective Care Environment: Coordinated care

2. The nurse reminds a resident in a long-term care facility that he has autonomy in many aspects of his institutionalization. One example is:
 - a. Selection of medication times
 - b. Availability of his own small electrical appliances
 - c. Smoking in the privacy of his own room
 - d. Application of advance directives

ANS: D

The application of advance directives is an autonomous decision. Agency protocols relative to medication times, access to private electrical devices, and smoking are rarely waived; these policies are not in the control of the resident.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension REF: p. 32 OBJ: 2
TOP: Autonomy KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation
MSC: NCLEX: Psychosocial Integrity: Coping and adaptation

3. The LPN/LVN may exhibit beneficence by:
 - a. Removing a defective equipment from the patient's room
 - b. Willingly working extra shifts during a staff shortage
 - c. Adhering to agency policy

- d. Joining the National Association for Practical Nurse Education & Service (NAPNES) and attending educational seminars

ANS: A

Beneficence means promoting good and reducing harm. Removing defective equipment demonstrates that the LPN/LVN is reducing possible harm to the patient. Working extra shifts, adhering to policy, and joining NAPNES are personal values, not beneficence.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 32 OBJ: 2
TOP: Beneficence KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A MSC: NCLEX: N/A

4. The LPN/LVN reminds a group of nursing students that the values they demonstrate in their practice have their roots in:
- Nursing school education
 - Family influence
 - Peer relationships
 - Agency policies

ANS: B

The family shapes values that are demonstrated in later life. These values may be enhanced or challenged by life experiences, but the base is forged in the family.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension REF: p. 33 OBJ: 3
TOP: Values KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A MSC: NCLEX: N/A

5. One obstetric nurse remarks, "I don't see how these young single women can keep on having babies without being married. Everyone knows a child needs a father." This nurse is exhibiting:
- Ethnocentrism
 - Moral uncertainty
 - Values clarification
 - Professional concern

ANS: A

Ethnocentricity is the belief that one's own culture and values are superior to those of another. Such statements are based on values clarification and, perhaps, on moral outrage.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 33 OBJ: 5
TOP: Ethnocentrism/Values Clarification KEY: Nursing
Process Step: N/A
MSC: NCLEX: N/A

6. When a student asks the instructor to define the philosophic stand of utilitarianism, the instructor gives the example of:
- An army officer sacrifices six paratroopers to save 100 prisoners of war.
 - A priest burns down his church because it was defiled by Satanists.

- c. A mother jumps off a cliff with her baby to avoid being captured by Indians.
- d. A soldier murders captured enemies to prevent their divulging military secrets.

ANS: A

The sacrifice of six to save 100 is an example of the *greater good*. The other options are based on the philosophy of deontology.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis REF: p. 34 OBJ: 6
 TOP: Utilitarianism KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A
 MSC: NCLEX: N/A

7. The LPN/LVN explains to a patient that the hospital has an Institutional Ethics Committee whose main function is to:
- a. Preside over policy implementation
 - b. Revoke the license of someone who violates the law
 - c. Solve personnel disputes
 - d. Ensure that hiring adheres to ethnic equality

ANS: A

The main job of the Institutional Ethics Committee is to preside over the implementation of agency policy.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 34 OBJ: 8
 TOP: Institutional Ethics Committee KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation
 MSC: "NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated care"

8. The LPN/LVN charted that “the patient was drunk and acted in a crazy manner.” The team leader has cautioned that such documentation would leave the LPN/LVN open to charges of commission of the intentional tort of:
- a. Assault
 - b. Wrongful publication
 - c. Defamation of character
 - d. Invasion of privacy

ANS: C

Charting or saying unsupported defamatory statements can lead to tort litigation.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 38 OBJ: 2
 TOP: Torts KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A
 MSC: "NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated care"

9. When the LPN/LVN assists an older woman to stand after a fall in a shopping mall parking lot, the woman twists and sprains her ankle. The LPN/LVN is protected from litigation or an unintentional tort by:
- a. Hospital malpractice insurance
 - b. Good faith agreement

- c. Good Samaritan law
- d. Personal professional insurance

ANS: C

The Good Samaritan law protects individuals who assist at an accident scene if they act in good faith. Professional insurance is not in effect because the actions were not performed while the LPN/LVN was on duty.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 39 OBJ: 2
TOP: Torts KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A MSC: NCLEX: N/A

10. The LPN/LVN has trimmed the toenails of a patient with diabetes too short, which resulted in a toe amputation from infections. This LPN/LVN is guilty of:
- a. Unintentional tort
 - b. Intentional tort
 - c. Negligence
 - d. Malpractice

ANS: D

Malpractice occurs when an unintentional tort causes an injury to a patient.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis REF: p. 38 OBJ: 2
TOP: Malpractice KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A MSC: NCLEX: N/A

11. The LPN/LVN acquiring a signature on a surgical informed consent document must ensure that the:
- a. Patient is not sedated.
 - b. Physician is present.
 - c. Family member is a witness.
 - d. Signature is in ink.

ANS: A

Before surgery, the consent form must be signed before any preoperative sedation is administered. A sedated person cannot give a valid consent.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 40 OBJ: 9
TOP: Informed Consent KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A
MSC: "NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated care"

12. The physician has written an order for Synthroid, 137 mg. The LPN/LVN is aware that the drug is measured in micrograms. The nurse should:
- a. Transcribe the order as if it were written in micrograms.
 - b. Notify the nursing supervisor.
 - c. Transcribe the order as written.
 - d. Call the prescribing physician.

ANS: D

The LPN/LVN may call the physician to clarify the order but may not alter the written order in any way. The order for the correct dose will be written as a new order.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 35 OBJ: N/A
 TOP: Doctor's Orders KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A
 MSC: "NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated care"

13. The physician has written an order for morphine sulfate, 100 mg. The LPN/LVN inquires if he meant to write 10 mg. The physician confirms that he meant 100 mg. The LPN/LVN should:
- Call a member of the hospital administration.
 - Refuse to transcribe the order.
 - Call the pharmacist.
 - Notify the nursing supervisor.

ANS: D

In the event of a physician's refusal to clarify a questionable order, the LPN/LVN should notify the nursing supervisor to intervene.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 40 OBJ: N/A
 TOP: Doctor's Orders KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A
 MSC: "NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated care"

MULTIPLE RESPONSE

1. The LPN/LVN explains to a patient that health care ethics are based on: (*Select all that apply.*)
- Autonomy
 - Fidelity
 - Professionalism
 - Justice
 - Nonmaleficence

ANS: A, B, D, E

Health care ethics are based on autonomy, fidelity, beneficence, justice, and nonmaleficence

DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension REF: p. 32 OBJ: 2
 TOP: Health Care Ethics KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation
 MSC: "NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated care"

2. The nurse is aware that values clarification supports nursing practice by: (*Select all that apply.*)
- Guiding decision making
 - Giving insight to patients

- c. Enhancing peer relationships
- d. Helping understand him or herself
- e. Gaining the confidence of supervisors

ANS: A, B, D

Values clarification gives a person a foundation for moral decisions and insight into self and others.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 33 OBJ: 4
TOP: Values Clarification KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A
MSC: NCLEX: N/A

3. The LPN/LVN arrives on duty at 7 AM and is faced with the ethical dilemma of inadequate staffing for the day shift. The LPN/LVN should invoke a “safe harbor” by: *(Select all that apply.)*
- a. Immediately filing a written protest with administration.
 - b. Leaving duty.
 - c. Refusing the assignment.
 - d. Calling hospital administration.
 - e. Suggesting that nursing assistants (NAs) file a written protest.

ANS: A, E

Filing a written protest relative to short staffing provides the “safe harbor” for the LPN/LVN and protects his or her license. Nonacceptance of the assignment or leaving duty is considered abandonment. Suggesting that the NA file a similar protest is an effective action.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: p. 40 OBJ: 9
TOP: Inadequate Staffing KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A
MSC: NCLEX: N/A

COMPLETION

1. The values that direct human behavior and are concerned with defining right from wrong are known as _____.

ANS:

Ethics

An individual’s ability to define right from wrong is based on a value system called ethics.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension REF: p. 31 OBJ: 1
TOP: Ethics KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A
MSC: NCLEX: Psychosocial Integrity

OTHER

1. Prioritize the steps in solving an ethical dilemma.
 - a. Evaluate the outcome.
 - b. Plan an approach.
 - c. Visualize the consequences.
 - d. Take action.
 - e. Identify the problem.

ANS:

e, b, c, d, a

To solve an ethical dilemma, one must clearly identify the problem, plan an approach, visualize the consequences, take action, and evaluate the outcome.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

REF: p. 34

OBJ: 7

TOP: Solving an Ethical Dilemma

KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A

MSC: NCLEX: N/A