

## Chapter 3: Ethics and Law

### Multiple Choice

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A patient is expressing anger when the nurse attempts to make him take a medication that he is refusing. If the nurse pushes to give the medication against his will, the nurse is:
- Violating the patient's rights.
  - Achieving a treatment goal to get the medication in the patient any way possible.
  - Supporting the family's demand that he take the medication.
  - Following orders from the charge nurse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A mental health nurse bumps into a member of her church, who begins questioning her about a former neighbor. The woman from the church asks the nurse, "How is Rachael? We have been friends for over 20 years and I have seen her come out of your clinic a few times. Is she seeing one of the psychiatrists?" The nurse's response is:
- "The HIPAA law prevents me from disclosing any information about any patient."
  - "All I can say is she is seeing Dr. Leone."
  - "Rachael is seeing Dr. Leone because she is concerned about feeling extremely happy sometimes and about feeling extremely depressed other times."
  - "Rachael was only there to renew her medication."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. You are working on a mental health unit and have a diverse group of patients. Some of the patients are of Middle Eastern descent. These patients have communicated to you that they would like to follow the same period for praying as they did prior to admission. What is your response?
- "You are in America now."
  - "You can go back to your regular time for praying when you are discharged."
  - "How can I accommodate you with your prayer time?"
  - "Would you like to learn another prayer?"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The nursing student uses the client's full name on the assigned care plan during her recent clinical rotation. What is the instructor's priority intervention?
- Express the importance of factual documentation and that it should include the patient's name.
  - Remind the student of the importance of maintaining patient confidentiality.
  - Discuss with student that the patient is homeless and illiterate. As a result of this, maybe the patient will not be embarrassed about their homelessness status; therefore confidentiality is not an issue.
  - Explain to the student because the patient was committed involuntary, confidentiality is not an issue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. While shopping in the local supermarket, a mental health nurse encounters an individual who recently was a patient on her unit. Which is the proper response by the nurse?
- Stop the person and ask how they are doing since discharge.
  - The closer you get to the patient, look in another direction.
  - Speak to the patient, but not by name.
  - If eye contact is made and the patient responds, then you should respond back.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The telephone rings at the nurses' station of an inpatient psychiatric facility. The caller asks to speak with Ms. Honey. Which nursing response protects the patient's rights and confidentiality?
- A. "I cannot confirm or deny that Ms. Honey was admitted here."
  - B. "Ms. Honey is in group therapy at present."
  - C. "Hold on, I'll go see if she is in her room."
  - D. "Are you a family member? Ms. Honey can only receive calls from family members."

### **Completion**

*Complete each statement.*

- 7. In the group therapy session, the nurse speaks up to remind a patient of a recent improvement in his coping. The nurse's action is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. Another term to describe the ethical principle of veracity is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. The name of a law that provides immunity to a citizen who offers medical aid is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. The patient is upset because her doctor has not been to see her today. The nurse tells the patient the doctor will be in by 3 p.m., even though the nurse does not know this to be true. This nurse has violated the ethical principle of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11. The basic concepts and fundamental moral principles that govern conduct are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12. Another term for accepting responsibility is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_ relates to space, time, and waiting and is influenced by culture.
- 14. The National Federation of Licensed \_\_\_\_\_ Nurse organization adopted the standards of practice that include ethics for the LPN/LVN.
- 15. The American Nurse Association has written guidelines for minimum \_\_\_\_\_ of care.
- 16. The Nurse Practice \_\_\_\_\_ indicates the acceptable scope of nursing practice for the different levels of nursing.
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_ addresses the security and privacy involved with medical records and how that information is identified and passed between care providers.
- 18. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the leading national accreditation body of health care organizations.
- 19. Immunity for citizens who stop to assist someone in need of medical help is protected by the Good \_\_\_\_\_ Act.

20. This document protects patients who are receiving care in a facility: Patient Bill of \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Abuse should be reported by \_\_\_\_\_.
22. Nurses are expected to be respectful of the beliefs of their patients and coworkers and not to force their personal beliefs on others at work. This is a demonstration of the trait of \_\_\_\_\_, which is required to be nurse.
23. The \_\_\_\_\_ Commission is the leading accrediting body of health care organizations.

### Multiple Response

*Identify one or more choices that best complete the statement or answer the question.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Patient's Bill of Rights includes the right(s) to (select all that apply):
- A. Open mail and make personal phone calls.
  - B. Have privacy and visitors.
  - C. Treat staff in a disrespectful manner.
  - D. Be identified as a client.
  - E. Choose one's own nurse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) was developed by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide national standards pertaining to transmission and communication of medical information. Which of the following are true about HIPAA (select all that apply)?
- A. Only applies to electronic chart, not the paper one
  - B. Provides national standards relating to the electronic transmission and communication of medical information between patients, providers, employers, and insurers
  - C. Allows less control on the part of the patient as to what part of health information is disclosed
  - D. Gives the patient immediate access to his/her medical record at any time it is requested
  - E. Eliminates the need for patients to sign informed consents
  - F. HIPAA was implemented in 2003
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. The goals and objectives of the Joint Commission (JC) include (select all that apply):
- A. Committing to quality on a daily basis within the entire facility.
  - B. Reducing risk of undesirable patient outcomes.
  - C. Encouraging continuous improvement.
  - D. Reducing health care costs.
  - E. Promoting nursing education through scholarships and financial aid.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. The LPNs/LVNs will use the Nurse Practice Act as a guide in their practice. The Nurse Practice Act (select all that apply):
- A. Is a federal document that all states must follow.
  - B. Is established by each state to define the scope of nursing practice in that state.

- C. Protects nurses from lawsuits for violating rules about patients' confidentiality.
- D. Established fair compensation and benefits for nurses.
- E. Dictates the acceptable scope of practice for the different levels of nursing.

## Chapter 3: Ethics and Law

### Answer Section

#### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. ANS: A

The Patient Bill of Rights provides the patient's right to refuse medications and treatments. The nurse has a responsibility to advocate for the patients and assure them of their rights. In addition, patients have the right to be educated about medications and treatment, which allows them to make an informed decision.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Patient Bill of Rights; page 42

KEY: Integrated Processes: Nursing Process: Implementation | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Application | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Client Rights

2. ANS: A

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) states what can be disclosed about a patient and emphasizes patient privacy.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Confidentiality; page 40

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Application | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Confidentiality/Information

3. ANS: C

It is within the nurse's scope of practice to advocate for the patient. The nurse is the voice for the patient when needed. The nurse defends the patient's rights to their beliefs and values.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Patient Advocacy; page 42-43

KEY: Integrated Processes: Nursing Process: Planning | Content Area: Cultural Diversity | Cognitive Level: Analysis | Client Need: Psychosocial Integrity: Religious and Spiritual Influences on Health

4. ANS: B

All patient information is confidential, and only initials should be used during the student clinical rotation.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Confidentiality; page 40

KEY: Integrated Processes: Communication and Documentation | Content Area: Mental Health: Confidentiality | Cognitive Level: Application | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Confidentiality/Information Security

5. ANS: D

Confidentiality is maintained, whether in a facility or out in public. If the patient initiates contact, then responding back is appropriate.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Confidentiality; page 38

KEY: Integrated Processes: Caring | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Application | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Confidentiality/Information Security

6. ANS: A

Patient information is confidential this includes even acknowledging the presence of that person in the facility.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Confidentiality; page 38

KEY: Integrated Processes: Communication and Documentation | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Synthesis | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Confidentiality/Information Security

## COMPLETION

7. ANS:

patient advocacy

The nurse understands that patients learn from their peers and can help others. The nurse is providing information in the group to help this patient acknowledge a recent success.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Patient Advocacy; page 45

KEY: Integrated Processes: Caring | Content Area: Mental Health: Therapeutic Communication | Cognitive Level: Synthesis | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care: Advocacy

8. ANS:

honesty

Veracity is telling the truth.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Honesty; page 36

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Nursing Ethics | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care: Ethical Practice

9. ANS:

Good Samaritan law

The basis for all Good Samaritan laws is that a third party cannot be charged with negligence unless help is given recklessly or that person makes the situation significantly worse, according to the guidelines for that particular state.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Good Samaritan Laws; page 41-42

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care: Legal Rights and Responsibilities

10. ANS:

honesty, or veracity

The professional choice is to tell the truth. Even though giving false information to the patient reassured the patient, it is not ethical.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Honesty; page 36

KEY: Integrated Processes: Caring | Content Area: Nursing Ethics | Cognitive Level: Application | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Ethical Practice

11. ANS:

ethics

Ethics provide a framework of action to address conflicting principles.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Ethical Practices; page 34

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Nursing Ethics | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care: Ethical Practice

12. ANS:

accountability

Accountability is accepting responsibility for any actions performed while caring for a patient.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Accountability; page 41  
KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Concepts of Management and Supervision

13. ANS:

Proxemics

Study of spatial relationships including space, time, and waiting, which are all influenced by one's culture.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Culture of Nurses; page 37

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Mental Health: Therapeutic Communication | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Psychosocial Integrity: Therapeutic Communication

14. ANS:

Practical

Ethical guidelines and practice standards for the LPN/LVN have been developed by NFLPN.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Professionalism; page 34

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Nursing Ethics | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

15. ANS:

standards

The standards of care are written at a minimum level and for each discipline of nursing. A nurse below the minimum competency is unsafe.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Professionalism; page 34

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Nursing Licensure | Cognitive Level: Comprehension | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

16. ANS:

Act

The Nurse Practice Act defines the level of practice for the nurse. A nurse can consult with the Nurse Practice Act when unsure about a specific skill. The Nurse Practice Acts varies from state to state.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Professionalism; page 34

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Nursing Licensure | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care and Legal Rights and Responsibilities

17. ANS:

HIPAA

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide national standards pertaining to the electronic transmission and communication of medical information between patients, providers, employers, and insurers.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Professionalism; page 39

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Confidentiality/Information Security

18. ANS:

Joint Commission

The Joint Commission ensures that standards in the hospital and other health care organizations are met and maintained. Their goal is to reduce the risk of undesirable patient outcomes and encourage continuous improvement.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Professionalism; page 40  
KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Management of Care | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Concepts of Management

19. ANS:

Samaritan

The Good Samaritan Act protects individuals who attempt to provide medical treatment. The Good Samaritan Act does not always protect nurses, physicians, and other medically trained persons.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Abiding by Current Laws; page 41-42  
KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care: Legal Rights and Responsibilities

20. ANS:

Rights

In many cases, this document was adopted to protect the rights of patients while in the facility; thus the Bill of Rights may vary from state to state, even though they are based on federal guidelines. These rights are to be listed in the facility and placed in a prominent area of the facility or the patient's room.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Patient Rights; page 42  
KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care: Legal Rights and Responsibilities

21. ANS:

everyone

Everyone should report any form of abuse and negligence toward those considered as vulnerable. Nurses and health care workers have a moral, legal, and ethical responsibility to report known or suspected abuse of people who cannot care for themselves. By law nurses are mandated to report child abuse throughout the United States.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Patient Advocacy; page 34  
KEY: Integrated Processes: Nursing Process: Implementation | Content Area: Mental Health: Abuse | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Psychosocial Integrity: Abuse/Neglect

22. ANS:

professionalism

Being a professional means we respect others and are committed to providing safe care to our patients.

PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Professionalism; page 33  
KEY: Integrated Processes: Caring | Content Area: Nursing Ethics | Cognitive Level: Comprehension | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Ethical Practice

23. ANS:

Joint

Earning accreditation by Joint Commission indicates commitment to quality on a daily basis within the entire institution. The commission's goal is to reduce the risk of undesirable patient outcomes and encourage continuous improvement.



PTS: 1 REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Professionalism; page 40  
KEY: Integrated Processes: Nursing Process: Evaluation | Content Area: Management of Care | Cognitive Level: Knowledge | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

## MULTIPLE RESPONSE

24. ANS: A, B, D

It is a legal right that advocates for the patient. Facilities are required to post the Patient's Bill of Rights.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Patient's Rights; Table 3-1, Most Frequently Adopted Patient Rights; page 43 and 44

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Mental Health: Patient Advocacy/Legal | Cognitive Level: Analysis

25. ANS: B, F

HIPAA was established to maintain confidentiality to anyone receiving healthcare. HIPAA provides guidelines on how confidential health care information is handled, including with the use of technology. HIPAA does not impact other patient rights such as giving informed consent. The patient has a right to access to his or her medical record, but there is a specific process to be followed to achieve this for each health care institution so immediate access is usually not available.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Confidentiality; page 40

KEY: Integrated Processes: Communication and Documentation | Content Area: Legal | Cognitive Level: Application | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care: Confidentiality/Information Security

26. ANS: A, B, C

The Joint Commission is the leading national accreditation body of health care organizations that monitors quality outcomes.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Joint Commission; page 40

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Management of Care | Cognitive Level: Comprehension | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care: Concepts of Management

27. ANS: B, E

A nurse will consult the Nurse Practice Act in his or her state to determine if the nurse is performing at the appropriate level based on one's preparation.

PTS: 1

REF: Chapter 3: Ethics and Law; Professionalism-Nurse Practice Act; page 34

KEY: Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning | Content Area: Nursing Licensure/Legal | Cognitive Level: Comprehension | Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: CoLegal Rights and Responsibility