



AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION MAY 2024

UNIT CODE: HSM711

UNIT NAME: MEDICO-LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN HEALTH SYSTEMS
MANAGEMENT

DATE: May 2024

TIME: Three Hours **Start: 6:00 PM** **Finish 9: 00 PM**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This exam is marked out of 70 marks
2. This Examination comprises TWO Sections
Section A: Compulsory Question (30 marks)
Section B: Long Answer Questions (40 marks)

SECTION A: COMPULSORY (30 Marks)

Question One: Short Answer Questions

a) Explain with examples what constitute a medico-legal and ethical issue (5mks)

b) Read the following case and answer the question that follow:

Ikeg (not his real name) drank several alcoholic beverages and then was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident. He was transported to hospital where his blood alcohol level was found to be 0.233. He complained of pain in his head, eyes, back, and ribs, as well as blurry vision because of the blood in his eyes. Because of his level of intoxication and the nature of Ikeg accident, “physicians decided to perform a diagnostic peritoneal lavage. After discussion of the procedure with the patient, he refused. However, it was determined that he was not competent to make this decision based on his level of intoxication. He was physically restrained and the procedure was performed anyway. The patient later sued for battery.

Was the patient justified to sue? Explain your answer (5mks).

- c) Describe any two (2) common conflicts that arise from the requirement to adhere to the law and ethics at the same time in health care (3mks).
- d) Describe key steps in ethical decision-making framework in health care (7mks)
- e) Read the following case and answer the questions that follow:
Ngha (not her real name) has a 3-year-old son and a 13-month-old daughter. Her son had the triple measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccination just over a year ago after Ngha had been reassured that it was extremely safe and would protect her son against dangerous childhood illnesses. Unfortunately, he had a bad reaction to the injection, with a high temperature, a rash around the injection site and a seizure. Although he seems fine now, Ngha is worried that having a seizure is an indication that he will develop autism or bowel problems. She has read the contradictory evidence about the risks of the triple MMR vaccine in newspapers and recognises that the evidence suggesting a link between MMR and autism has now been disproved. However, she is still concerned about having her daughter immunised against MMR in case the same thing happens to her.
- i) What is utilitarianism/consequentialism? (4mks)
ii) How can this ethical theory be applied to the case scenario to determine whether or not Ngha should have her daughter immunised? (6mks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS

QUESTION TWO

Ethics is not a check box exercise. Discuss this statement in the context of patient rights and responsibilities (20mks)

QUESTION THREE

Discuss emerging /Contemporary ethical & legal dilemmas in health care.

QUESTION 4

Please read the following case scenarios and answer the questions that follow:

Scenario 1-Weg a 15-year-old girl, has suffered from leukaemia since the age of 6 years. She has had multiple courses of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, all of which have failed. She is constantly in hospital and as such has had a disrupted education and little opportunity to make lasting friendships. She and her parents have accepted that further treatment is unlikely to be beneficial, and she wishes to return home to die in peace. Her doctors are unwilling to accept her decision as she is only 15.

Scenario 2 Thra, a 15-year-old girl, was born with a congenital heart defect that was repaired at birth. She now needs a heart transplant to enable her to live an active life. She is, however, adamant

that she does not want to live ‘with someone else’s heart beating inside me’. The prognosis of recovery after the heart transplant is good. Her parents are prepared to accept whatever decision she makes as they believe she will have to live with the consequences.

- a) Define virtue ethics (3mks)
- b) Highlight five virtues that would make a good doctor (5mks)
- c) Discuss how virtue ethics can be applied to these two case scenarios to offer guidance to the doctor (12mks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Discuss using examples why it is extremely important to comply with legal and ethical requirements in healthcare (14mks)
- b) Explain six (6) legal and ethical challenges in telemedicine (6mks)