



AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOETHICS
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION MAY-AUGUST 2026

UNIT CODE: 716 **UNIT NAME:** Clinical Ethics

DATE: 10th August, 2026

TIME: Three Hours

Start: 5:00 PM

Finish: 8:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This exam is marked out of 100 marks
2. This Examination comprises TWO Sections
Section A: Compulsory Question (25 marks)
Section B: Long Answer Questions (75 marks)

SECTION A: COMPULSORY (25 Marks)

Short Answer Questions

1. (a) Describe clinical ethics (2 marks)
(b) Identify two common areas of concern in clinical practice. (3 marks)
2. Explain two issues which are not a function of a hospital ethics committee. (5 marks)
3. Identify five requirements for valid informed consent in clinical care. (5 marks)
4. Describe two ethical duties that support patient trust in clinical communication. (5 marks)
5. Explain two ethical duties that arise after a medical error in healthcare. (5 marks)

SECTION B (Set 5 Questions)

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS (75 Marks)

Long Answer Questions

6. Case study: A patient with terminal cancer is receiving aggressive treatment with little clinical benefit. The family insists that everything must be done, while the clinical team believes that comfort care is more appropriate.

- a) Describe three ethical concerns raised by the case. (9 marks)
- b) Analyse two conflicts between family wishes and professional responsibility. (8 marks)
- c) Propose four steps the clinical team should take in managing the case. (8 marks)

7. a) Describe three functions of a hospital ethics committee. (9 marks)

- b) Analyse any three ways an ethics committee may support (i) clinicians (ii) patients (iii) families. (9 marks)
- c) Recommend three safeguards that can help an ethics committee remain fair and useful. (7 marks)

8. a) Explain three reasons why confidentiality is important in clinical care. (9 marks)

- b) Analyse two circumstances in which confidentiality may be ethically breached. (8 marks)
- c) Propose four institutional measures that can protect patient confidentiality. (8 marks)

9. a) Distinguish medical error and defensive medicine with an example for each. (9 marks)

- b) Analyse two ethical risks created when clinicians fear blame or litigation. (8 marks)
- c) Propose four ways healthcare institutions can promote learning after error. (8 marks)

10. a) Explain three features of shared decision-making. (9 marks)

- b) Analyse two ethical problems that may arise when clinicians leave difficult decisions entirely to patients. (8 marks)
- c) Recommend four ways clinicians can support patients facing difficult treatment decisions. (8 marks)