



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 JANUARY-APRIL 2026

UNIT CODE: HSM 711

UNIT NAME: MEDICAL LEGAL AND ETHICS IN HEALTH CARE

DATE: 7TH April, 2026

TIME: Three (3) 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. Describe four elements required to establish Medical Negligence. (5 marks)
2. Distinguish between autonomy and beneficence as ethical principles. (5 marks)
3. Explain the importance of informed consent in medical practice. (5 marks)
4. Explain the concept of dual loyalty in health care for health practitioners (5 marks)
5. Describe two ethical and two legal challenges in LMIC health systems. (5 marks)

SECTION B

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS (75 Marks)

Long Answer Questions

6. Discuss 5 roles of professional regulatory bodies in ethical medical practice environment. (25 marks)
7. Discuss 5 ethical limits to individual's freedoms during public health emergencies and pandemics. (25 marks)
8. Examine 3 health workers' rights and 2 duties during industrial action. (25 marks)
9. Case:

A 42-year-old male is brought to a public county referral hospital following a road traffic accident. He is unconscious, has severe internal bleeding, and requires immediate life-saving surgery. No relatives are present, and the patient's insurance status is unknown. The hospital is operating under severe budget constraints, with limited theatre capacity and delayed reimbursements from the national health insurance scheme. The attending surgeon confirms that without urgent surgical intervention, the patient is likely to die within hours. The hospital must decide whether to proceed with surgery immediately. Discuss:

- a. Using health economics principles, analyze the case above (10 marks).
- b. Propose policy and system-level solutions to address such cases in resource-constrained health systems in LMICs. (15 marks)

10. case

A 30-year-old woman presents to a public county referral hospital with prolonged obstructed labour. The maternity ward is overcrowded, the only obstetrician is covering multiple units, and essential supplies (oxytocin and blood for transfusion) are intermittently unavailable due to procurement delays.

The patient experiences fetal distress and requires an emergency caesarean section. However, surgery is delayed for several hours because:

- The operating theatre is understaffed
- Blood is unavailable in the hospital blood bank
- The anaesthetist is covering two hospitals

The baby is delivered stillborn, and the mother suffers a severe postpartum hemorrhage leading to long-term complications. The family files a medical negligence claim against the hospital and the attending clinicians. Subsequent investigation reveals:

- Chronic underfunding of maternity services
- Poor supply chain management

- Inadequate staff-to-patient ratios
 - Absence of clear emergency escalation protocols
-
- a. Using health economics and medico-legal principles, analyze this case of alleged medical negligence. (10 marks)
 - b. Distinguish between individual and systemic liability, assess the economic and ethical implications of each. (10 marks)
 - c. Propose policy and health system reforms to prevent similar occurrences in public hospitals. (10 marks)

AMMU