



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-AUGUST 2026

UNIT CODE: HSM 711 **UNIT NAME:** Medical Legal and Ethics in Health Care
DATE: 5TH AUGUST, 2026
TIME: **Three Hours** **Start:** 5.:30 PM **Finish** 8: 30 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. Outline four essential elements of medical negligence. (5 Marks)
2. Explain the principle of informed consent in healthcare practice. (5 Marks)
3. Distinguish between confidentiality and privacy in healthcare. (5 Marks)
4. State five rights of patients according to healthcare ethics principles. (5 Marks)
5. Describe the relevance of the principle of autonomy in health decision making. (5 Marks)

SECTION B

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS (75 Marks)

Long Answer Questions

- 6.
- a. Analyze five ethical challenges encountered during pandemics and disease outbreaks. (15 Marks)
 - b. Propose five ethical frameworks that can guide healthcare resource allocation during crises. (10 Marks)
7. Researchers are conducting a clinical trial involving a new malaria vaccine among children in a rural community. Many parents have low literacy levels and limited understanding of research procedures.

Questions

- a) Identify two ethical concerns associated with this study. (5 Marks)
 - b) Discuss five safeguards required to protect participants. (10 Marks)
 - c) Explain two responsibilities of each in ensuring ethical conduct by:
 - I. Researchers, (3 marks)
 - II. Ethics review committees, (4 marks)
 - III. Health authorities. (3 Marks)
8. A nurse posts a photograph of a patient receiving treatment on a personal social media account. Although the patient's name is not mentioned, the individual is recognizable by family members and community members.

Questions

- a) Discuss two ethical and three legal issues involved. (10 Marks)
- b) Analyze two consequences each for the:
 - I. patient,
 - II. nurse,
 - III. healthcare facility. (5 Marks)
- c) Recommend three policies and two interventions to prevent future breaches. (10 Marks)

9. A patient undergoes abdominal surgery. Three weeks later, severe complications develop, and investigations reveal that a surgical sponge was left inside the patient's abdomen. The patient requires additional surgery and experiences prolonged hospitalization.

Questions

- a) Discuss whether medical negligence has occurred and justify your answer. (10 Marks)
- b) Analyze the legal liabilities that may arise for the surgeon and the hospital. (5 Marks)
- c) Recommend five organizational measures that could prevent similar incidents. (10 Marks)

10.

- a. Discuss four ethical principles in healthcare service delivery. (15 Marks)
- b. Assess five roles of ethics committees in supporting ethical decision-making within health facilities. (10 Marks)

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