



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 2025

UNIT CODE: HSM 711 **UNIT NAME:** MEDICAL LEGAL ISSUES AND ETHICS IN HEALTH CARE

DATE: 12 AUGUST 2025

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. Wanjiru, an exceptionally bright and articulate 10-year-old, is found to have a cancerous tumour in one eye. The tumour is growing aggressively and rapidly. Surgery is required and the surgeons believe it likely that a blood transfusion will be required during the operation. Wanjiru's parents make it clear to you that they are unwilling to give their consent to any procedure which involves giving her blood products. Initially, Wanjiru agrees with them, even though you explain to her the risks involved. However, later, when you and your colleagues are alone with Wanjiru, she tells you that she's very scared of dying and would like you to do whatever you think is best as a health care provider.
 - a. Explain what you should do? (2 Marks)
 - b. Discuss five (5) Legal guidelines and laws would inform your decision? (5 Marks)
 - c. Discuss Five (5) ethical considerations should inform your decision? (5 Marks)

2. Using a relevant example discuss the difference between Consent and Substitute Consent (6 Marks)
3. Describe with the support of 5 examples what medical legal death investigation entails (5 Marks)
4. Differentiate medical legal from medical ethics (2 Marks)

TOTAL 25 MARKS

SECTION B

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS (75 Marks)

Long Answer Questions

5. A woman enters the emergency room with stomach pain. She undergoes a CT scan and is diagnosed with an abdominal aortic aneurysm, a weakening in the wall of the aorta which causes it to stretch and bulge. The physicians inform her that the only way to fix the problem is surgically, and that the chances of survival are about 50/50. They also inform her that time is of the essence, and that should the aneurysm burst, she would be dead in a few short minutes. The woman is an erotic dancer; she worries that the surgery will leave a scar that will negatively affect her work; therefore, she refuses any surgical treatment. Even after much pressuring from the physicians, she adamantly refuses surgery. Feeling that the woman is not in her correct state of mind and knowing that time is of the essence, the surgeons decide to perform the procedure without consent. They anesthetize her and surgically repair the aneurysm. She survives, and sues the hospital for millions of dollars.
 - a. Discuss two medical legal and three ethical issues that were on the decision-making table? (5 marks)
 - b. Justify that the physician's actions? (2 marks)
 - c. Explain other three things that they could have done? (3 marks)
 - d. Discuss using two examples if it is ever right to take away someone's autonomy? (5 Marks)
 - e. citing two outcomes or two procedures discuss if and how a court order make the physicians' decisions ethical? (5 Marks)
 - f. Illustrate using five scenarios what you would do if you were one of the health care workers attending to this case? (5 marks)
6. You are a general practitioner and a mother comes into your office with her child who is complaining of flu-like symptoms. Upon entering the room, you ask the boy to remove his shirt and you notice a pattern of very distinct bruises on the boy's torso. You ask the mother where the bruises came from, and she tells you that they are from a procedure she performed on him known as "coining." The procedure involves rubbing warm oils or gels on a person's skin with a coin or other flat metal object. The mother explains that it is used to raise out bad blood, and improve

circulation and healing. When you touch the boy's back with your stethoscope, he winces in pain from the bruises. You debate whether or not you should call Child Services and report the mother.

- a. Discuss if from a medical legal and ethics perspective we should we completely discount this cultural treatment as useless, or could there be something gained from it? (5 marks)
- b. Explain when a health care provider should step in to stop a cultural practice? (5 marks)
- c. Should the health provider be concerned about alienating the mother and other people of her ethnicity from modern medicine? (5 marks)
- d. Do you think that the health provider should report the mother? Discuss four reasons on your perspective. (5 Marks)
- e. Describe the steps should a doctor in our middle-income countries' context undertake to arrive at a medical legal decision (5 Marks)

7. You are working at the desk in your hospital when another employee of the hospital asks for information about a patient who was admitted last night with a pulmonary embolus secondary to cancer. You know the details of the case. The person requesting the information states that he is a close friend and co-worker of your patient. He shows you proper identification proving he really is a co-worker of your patient who also works in the hospital.

- a. Provide an appropriate response as a health care provider (5 marks).
- b. Explain TWO reasons WHY to that response. (5 marks).

c. A middle-aged married couple brings their 10-year-old daughter to the pediatrician because "she is too tired to play nowadays and sleeps all the time." The parents say that their daughter becomes winded with minimal exertion. For the past 2 weeks, the girl's gums have bled when she brushes her teeth. Physical examination demonstrates pallor and hepatosplenomegaly. An extensive workup indicates that she is suffering from acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and the parents are informed that chemotherapy will be necessary. They firmly refuse to comply with this treatment plan, however, due to their belief that the side effects will be too severe and her quality of life will be affected. Despite a lengthy discussion about the benefits of treatment and the likely consequences if therapy is withheld, the parents insist on taking the girl home.

- i. Describe the next steps to take from a medical legal perspective as a health care provider (10 Marks)
- ii. Discuss any two medical legal and ethical outcomes of the action you take (5Marks)

8. Discuss any five legal and ethical considerations related to reproductive rights and assisted reproductive technologies in relation to the laws of Your country (indicate your country). (25 Marks)

9. Evaluate using five examples the impact of technological advancements on medical law and ethics, with a focus on issues such as telemedicine and electronic health records. (25 marks)