

Ethical and Legal Issues in Healthcare Online

Curriculum Overview

Designed for:

- High school students
- Post-secondary courses in health care
- Certified Nursing Assistant training courses

Length:

The activities in this curriculum will last approximately 10 hours. With supplemental materials, the lessons can be adapted to a longer block of time.

Goal:

To help participants learn foundational knowledge about ethical and legal issues commonly experienced in healthcare careers..

Synopsis:

The purpose of this curriculum is to teach participants about legal and ethical responsibilities and implications for healthcare professionals. They will learn about patients' basic rights and responsibilities as well as how to differentiate between informed and implied consent and advance directives in a healthcare setting. Participants will learn about the HIPAA laws, patient privacy, and privileged communication along with the definition of and different types of social media, the effectiveness and risks of social media in the healthcare setting, and common-sense guidelines to follow. Lessons also cover the definition and principles of ethical foundations, how to differentiate between ethical and legal issues, and contemporary ethical dilemmas and their implications. Participants learn about religious and cultural values and their impact on healthcare as well as about patients' decision-making capacity and their right to refuse medical care.

Curriculum Components:

- Instructor portal – Guide for using the program, editable assignment lists for student tracking and student completion certificates
- Student portal to access interactive, self-paced lessons
- Assessment tools
- Supplemental workbooks

Learning Objectives:

Lesson 1: Legal Responsibilities and Implications

- Differentiate between civil and criminal law
- Describe healthcare professional's legal and ethical responsibilities
- Define "scope of practice"
- Define the healthcare professional's legal responsibilities and the implications of criminal and civil law as it applies to eight charges that could be brought against them

Lesson 2: Patient Basic Rights and Responsibilities

- Summarize patients' basic rights within a healthcare setting
- Explain how a patient reports a violation of their rights
- Describe patient responsibilities as it applies to healthcare

Lesson 3: Informed and Implied Consent and Advance Directives

- Define informed consent
- Explain implied consent
- Differentiate informed vs. implied consent
- Define advance directive

Lesson 4: Safety, Privacy, and Confidentiality of Health Information

- Define HIPAA
- Explain how to remain compliant with HIPAA as a healthcare professional
- Define patient privacy
- Describe privileged communication

Lesson 5: Social Media and Healthcare

- Define social media
- Explain effective uses of social media in the healthcare setting
- Describe associated risks of social media
- Explain common sense guidelines to follow when using social media in the healthcare setting

Lesson 6: Ethical Foundations

- Define ethical foundations
- Distinguish between bioethics and healthcare ethics
- Explain the principles of ethics
- Describe the impact of virtue ethics and religion in healthcare
- Explain situational ethics in the healthcare setting

Lesson 7: Ethical vs. Legal Issues Impacting Healthcare

- Differentiate between ethical and legal issues impacting healthcare
- Identify ethical issues and their implications related to healthcare
- Explain the role of an ethics committee
- Define scope of practice

Lesson 8: Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas and Their Implications

- Examine reproductive issues (abortion, in vitro, surrogacy, etc.)
- Define organ donation
- Explain clinical trials and research
- Define genetic testing

Lesson 9: Religious/Cultural Values and Respect/Empathy for all Patients

- Examine religious and cultural values as they impact healthcare
- Discuss how to ensure respectful and empathetic treatment of all patients
- Describe how to provide excellent customer service, civility, and patient satisfaction
- Identify the laws governing harassment and how to file an incident report

Lesson 10: Ethical Issues Involving Lack of Capacity and End-of-Life Care

- Examine patients' decision-making capacity and right to refuse medical care
- Discuss withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment
- Describe decisions regarding "no codes"
- Identify what is medical futility
- Explain assisted suicide in a medical setting