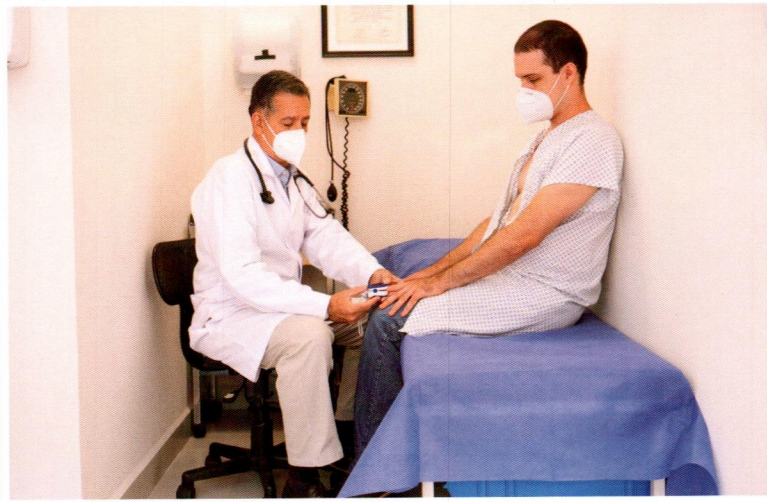
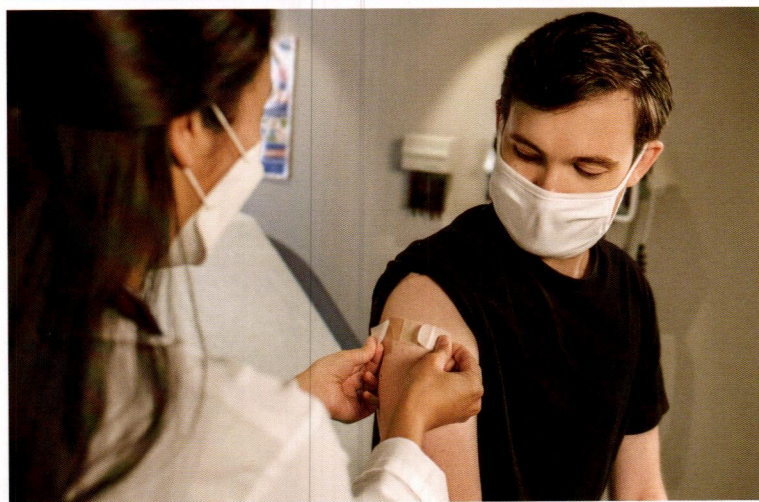
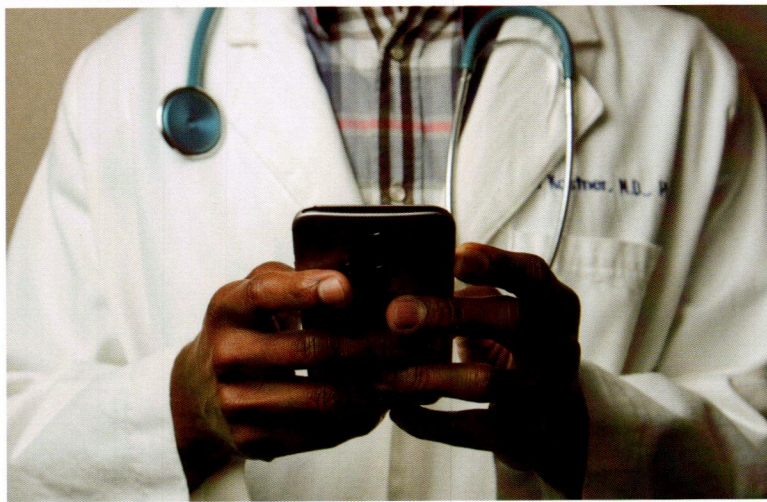




Ethical and Legal Issues in Healthcare

Student Workbook



Name: _____

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Table of Contents

Lesson One – Legal Responsibilities and Implications

Mandatory Reporting.....	5
Sample Reporting Form	6
Legal Scenario	7
Ethical Scenario	8

Lesson Two – Patient’s Basic Rights and Responsibilities

Patient Rights	9
Conflict of Interest.....	10
Legal Scenario	11
Ethical Scenario	12

Lesson Three – Informed and Implied Consent and Advance Directives

Living Will.....	13
Cost of Living Will and Medical POA	14
Legal Scenario	15
Ethical Scenario	16

Lesson Four – Safety, Privacy, and Confidentiality of Health Information

Privileged Communication.....	17
HIPAA Settlement Example	18
Legal Scenario	19
Ethical Scenario	20

Lesson Five – Social Media and Healthcare

Misusing Social Media.....	21
Social Media Self-Audit.....	22
Legal Scenario	23
Ethical Scenario	24

Lesson Six – Ethical Foundations

Situational Ethics	25
Ethics and Religion.....	26
Legal Scenario	27
Ethical Scenario	28

Lesson Seven – Ethical vs. Legal Issues Impacting Healthcare

Difficult Ethical Issues Self-Study	29
Ethics Committee Investigation.....	30
Legal Scenario	31
Ethical Scenario	32

Lesson Eight – Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas and Their Implications

Pro-Life and Pro-Choice	33
Wrongful Birth Case	34
Legal Scenario	35
Ethical Scenario	36

Lesson Nine – Religious/Cultural Values and Respect/Empathy for all Patients

Cultural Values	37
Harassment Policy	38
Legal Scenario	39
Ethical Scenario	40

Lesson Ten – Ethical Issues Involving Lack of Capacity and End-of-Life Care

Physician-Assisted Suicide.....	41
Euthanasia Debate.....	42
Legal Scenario	43
Ethical Scenario	44

Mandatory Reporting

REPORTING

Research the mandatory reporting requirements for abuse in the state you reside in. Choose four types of abuse that must be reported. Write down at least one phone number (not including 911) that you would call to report suspected abuse and also identify the agency you would be reporting the abuse to.



Abuse Type	Agency and Phone Number

Legal Responsibilities and Implications

Sample Reporting Form

Read the scenario below and complete the sample reporting form provided.

Elna is a resident at the Heavenly Days assisted living facility where you are working as a CNA. Over the past week, you've noticed that she has become withdrawn and not her usual jovial self. Usually, Elna would hug you when you would bring her meals to her and ask how your family is doing. When you lean in to hug Elna this morning, she pulls away and tells you to leave her alone. You notice a bandage on her forearm and a laceration to her forehead that looks as if it wasn't treated. When you ask her what happened, she snaps at you and tells you to mind your own business.

Abuse Reporting Form

Alleged Victim:

Date of Incident:

Name

Address

Age

Phone #

Is someone responsible for the care of this vulnerable adult? Yes No

Does the alleged victim have the capacity to understand and appreciate the nature and consequences of decision-making concerning these actions? Yes No

Perpetrator: The alleged abuser, relationship to the victim, name and contact information/

Description: What is the nature or extent or harm or concern?

Action to help the victim: What has/is being done to help this vulnerable adult?

Reporter: Who are you? (Name, address, phone, relationship to vulnerable adult)

How did you come to know about the abuse?

Are you requesting anonymity? Yes No

Other information: Any other information that may be helpful in determining the cause of abuse.

Legal Responsibilities and Implications

Legal Scenario

You are working the night shift as an emergency room nurse when a lady comes running into the hospital carrying a five-year-old male who is bruised and bloody, crying in her arms. As you rush her back to an examination room, she tells you that her son accidentally fell down the stairs. You start taking his clothes off to assess his injuries and notice old bruises to his arms, torso, legs, and buttocks. You also see what appears to be cigarette burns to his stomach and chest.

Points of view to consider

- You, the ER nurse
- Lady, the mother
- Five-year-old male, the son

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Legal Responsibilities and Implications

Ethical Scenario

You are working your shift as a medical assistant at a residential facility for dementia and Alzheimer's patients. As you approach one of your patient's rooms, you hear Ronda, the nursing supervisor, talking to the patient. You enter the room and see that Ronda has her back to you and is brushing the patient's hair. While observing, Ronda takes something from the patient's dresser and puts it into her pocket while looking over other objects that the patient has lying on the dresser.

Points of view to consider

- You, the medical assistant
- Ronda, nursing supervisor
- The patient

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Patient's Basic Rights and Responsibilities

Patient's Rights

Research the patient's rights within a hospital in the state where you reside. Write down ten patient rights **not** **mentioned** in the lesson.

State: _____

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



Patient's Basic Rights and Responsibilities

Conflict of Interest

Identify five different reasons why there could be a conflict of interest between a healthcare professional and a patient.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	



Patient's Basic Rights and Responsibilities

Legal Scenario

You are the patient of a plastic surgeon named Doctor Marcus, a now-famous YouTube and Instagram influencer. While watching some of your “celebrity” doctor’s videos, you see before and after pictures of yourself! Doctor Marcus is famous for performing face-lifts, and now you see photos of your face on the internet. You did not give Doctor Marcus permission to use your photos, and you are appalled and embarrassed. What would you do?

Points of view to consider

- You, the patient
- Doctor Marcus
- YouTube and Instagram viewers

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Patient's Basic Rights and Responsibilities

Ethical Scenario

You are working as a live-in caregiver, caring for an 83-year-old female named Dorothy. Two days ago, Dorothy was diagnosed with a brain tumor, and the doctor feels they can most likely remove it with surgery. Dorothy has decided to refuse treatment and let nature run its course. This morning, Dorothy has held a family meeting to discuss her affairs. Her two sons and daughter are there, along with four of her ten grandchildren. Dorothy asks you to attend the meeting since she has an announcement. When everyone has gathered around, Dorothy tells you that she wants to leave you her house and investments since you are more like her family than her children and grandchildren.

Points of view to consider

- You, a live-in caregiver
- Dorothy, 83-year old
- Dorothy's sons and daughter
- Grandchildren

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Living Will

Make a draft of a living will for yourself. Write down what would be necessary for you to have in your living will.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, designed for drafting a living will. The box features decorative scrollwork at the top-left and bottom-left corners, giving it the appearance of a rolled-up document. The interior of the box is completely blank, providing space for the student to write their draft.

Cost of Living Will and Medical POA

Research the cost and requirements of preparing a living will and medical power of attorney. Write down the requirements and costs of each.

Living Will

Medical POA

Legal Scenario

You are working as a registered nurse in an oncology clinic. The physician is in the room with you and your 73-year-old male patient who has been diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The physician explains the treatment plan he recommends for the patient and describes what he thinks are the best treatment options. The doctor fails to tell the patient about a new, less invasive procedure with excellent results. Also, the doctor fails to mention the risks involved with the treatment options he has presented. As a nurse, you feel that the patient is not adequately informed of his options and should not sign an informed consent agreement.

Points of view to consider

- You, the oncology RN
- Physician
- 73-year-old male patient

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Informed and Implied Consent and Advance Directives

Ethical Scenario

You are a paramedic and get a call to a private residence for an unconscious male. Upon arrival, you and your partner find a family member doing CPR on an older adult. The family member tells you that the patient is his dad, who became unresponsive while playing cards. You assess the patient and find him to be pulseless and apneic. As you start CPR, the patient's wife comes into the room with a do not resuscitate (DNR) order, telling you to stop CPR. She has presented a valid DNR, and you stop CPR. The son starts yelling at you to keep doing CPR.

Points of view to consider

- You, the paramedic
- Paramedic partner
- Unconscious male, older adult
- Patient's wife
- Family member doing CPR, the son

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Privileged Communication

Define privileged communication:

Besides the healthcare profession, name three other types of businesses, organizations, or persons with privileged communication. Write a brief description of what parties are involved in the communication.

Business, Group, or Persons	Parties involved in the privileged communication and why this business, organization, or group of persons need this.

Privileged Communication

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Legal Scenario

While working at an urgent care clinic as a medical assistant, you overhear a coworker talking to a medical sales representative about an overweight patient who is sitting in the waiting room in a wheelchair. They are laughing and making crude jokes about the size of the patient. The medical sales representative asked for the patient's information to see if he could sell the patient medical supplies for their home. Later, you see your coworker make a copy of the patient's medical record and give it to the sales representative, clearly violating the HIPAA act and the patient's privacy.

Points of view to consider

- You, the medical assistant
- Coworker
- Medical sales representative
- Patient

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Safety, Privacy, and Confidentiality of Health Information

Ethical Scenario

You are working as a CNA at an OB/GYN office. Your coworker tells you she is taking a 10-minute break and needs to call her boyfriend. While she is talking to her boyfriend, you overhear her telling him about a patient that was recently seen in the office. The patient was diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease, and now your coworker is telling her boyfriend the details, including the patient's name. They both went to school with the patient a few years ago.

Points of view to consider

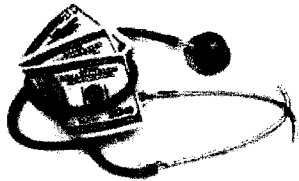
- You, the CNA
- Coworker
- Coworker's boyfriend
- Patient

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Misusing Social Media



Investigate and write about three cases where healthcare professionals were penalized for misusing social media. The cases can involve employed healthcare professionals or students in a program.

Case	Who was involved? What did they do? What was the penalty?

Social Media and Healthcare

Social Media Self-Audit

College admissions officers or employers will often look at an applicant's social media accounts before acceptance. Take a critical look at your social media accounts. Consider deleting anything that might be offensive.

Social Media Account	Are there any photos, posts, or comments that you think would be offensive to college admissions officers?	Write down which posts, images, or comments are questionable and why they might be offensive to others.
	Yes No	
	Yes No	
	Yes No	
	Yes No	
	Yes No	
	Yes No	
	Yes No	

Legal Scenario

You are hired as a registered nurse at a well-known cardiologist's office. Doctor Richards is the leading cardiologist in the area and teaches anatomy and physiology at a local university. One day you are browsing your social media channels and see that Doctor Richards has a Twitter and Instagram account. While looking through her posts, you notice that she is offering medical advice to her subscribers. When you were in nursing school, you distinctly remember learning that healthcare professionals cannot provide medical advice online.

Points of view to consider

- You, the RN
- Doctor Richards
- Online subscribers

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Ethical Scenario

You and your classmates are taught the nursing school's ethics and morals code, which prohibits students from posting information on social media that would be unbecoming to the profession or the school. There is one person in the nursing program that you and your classmates do not care for. Jack is always loud and obnoxious when the instructors are not present, and he makes crude jokes. At lunch, a friend joins you and shows you a video on Instagram that Jack posted. He is at a strip club with some friends, drinking and posing with the dancers.

Points of view to consider

- You, the nursing student
- Nursing classmates
- Jack
- Lunch friend

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Situational Ethics

How would you respond if you were the paramedics in this example of situational ethics? Who would you choose and why?

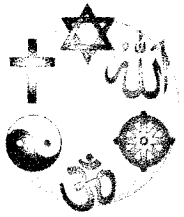


You and your partner are paramedics working in a rural EMS unit when you happen upon an accident with multiple vehicles. There are four victims, two older adults who appear to be in their eighties, and a pregnant mother and her toddler in the back seat. All four patients are unresponsive, and the closest assistance from other EMS responders is 30 minutes away. Life flight is 10 minutes away, but there are only the two of you, so you need to choose which patients to resuscitate.

YOU DECIDE!



Ethics and Religion



Research three different religions and write down each of their religious beliefs regarding healthcare and medical treatment.

1.

2.

3.

Ethical Foundations

Legal Scenario

Jean is an Alzheimer's patient at the Dementia and Alzheimer's Assisted Living Facility, where you work as a nursing assistant. Jean does not have an advance directive regarding her medical treatment on file, and she is not competent to make medical decisions. Her daughter was her power of attorney, but she recently passed away. One day, you overhear Jean's physician talking with the nursing supervisor. He tells the supervisor that he is prescribing Jean an experimental drug that may or may not help her Alzheimer's. You learned about protecting patients from harm and the principle of beneficence in your nursing program.

Points of view to consider

- Jean, the Alzheimer's patient
- You, the nursing assistant
- Jean's physician
- Nursing supervisor

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Ethical Foundations

Ethical Scenario

You are working as a physician and have a 62-year-old patient named Will, who was recently diagnosed with a rare blood disorder and has been given approximately two months to live. There is a new experimental medicine that you have offered Will which could extend his life for two or three years. However, your office staff checked with Will's insurance company and they said they would not cover the expensive treatment, since it is experimental. During your rounds, you tell Will what the insurance company has said and suggest discussing this with his family. The following day, you stop by Will's room to see what he wanted to do. Will said he thought it over and did not want to involve his family in the decision because they would like him to accept the treatment. Will explained that he wanted to be around for his family, but financially it would ruin them. If he doesn't take the medicine, his wife and family can collect his life insurance money when he passes.

Points of view to consider

- You, the physician
- Will, the 62-year-old patient
- Office staff
- Insurance company
- Will's family

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Difficult Ethical Issues Self-Study



Identify three ethical issues relating to healthcare that you think would make it difficult for you to work as a healthcare professional and why.

Ethical issue	Why it would make healthcare work difficult for me

Ethics Committee Investigation

Pick a hospital close to where you live. Investigate who makes up their ethics committee (if they have one) and their roles and responsibilities. Write a short synopsis.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Ethics Committee Member

Role/Responsibilities



Legal Scenario

You are a registered nurse working in a trauma center when a gunshot victim is brought in a private vehicle to the front door. You and a coworker run outside with a stretcher to bring the patient into an exam room. The patient is not breathing and has weak pulses, and you call for the respiratory team to assist. The team responds that it will be approximately five minutes since they are working on multiple patients who arrived at the center after a multi-vehicle accident. The charge nurse decides to intubate the patient to assist with ventilation, but it is not in her scope of practice. You mention that to her, and she responds by saying she has seen the procedure performed hundreds of times and feels confident doing it.

Points of view to consider

- You, the RN
- Gunshot victim
- Coworker
- Respiratory team
- Charge nurse

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Ethical vs. Legal Issues Impacting Healthcare

Ethical Scenario

You are working as an emergency room technician when a doctor you have never met walks into the exam room where you're assessing a patient involved in a vehicle accident. The doctor introduces herself and asks what is going on with the patient. You are immediately attracted to the doctor and find yourself stumbling over your words when answering her questions. After the patient is stabilized, you are in the break room getting a cup of coffee. The doctor walks in, starts flirting with you, massages your shoulders, and asks if you want to get something to eat after the shift is over. The hospital has a strict policy that prohibits employees from having relationships with coworkers and patients.

Points of view to consider

- You, the ER technician
- Doctor
- Patient

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Pro-Life and Pro-Choice

Research pro-life and pro-choice points of view on abortion. Define both, including why pro-lifers and pro-choicers believe what they do.

Pro-Life	Pro-Choice

Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas and Their Implications

Wrongful Birth Case

Find an article about a physician charged with a wrongful birth suit. Write a brief synopsis about the case, including the results of the lawsuit and any monetary awards.

Physician 	
Synopsis of the Case 	
Results of the Lawsuit 	
Monetary Award 	

Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas and Their Implications

Legal Scenario

You are a pregnant female scheduled for a c-section since you cannot deliver naturally due to complications from a previous pregnancy. Your physician did not offer or suggest genetic testing during your pregnancy since your medical insurance would not cover it. After your physician performs the surgery, there is a commotion, and the doctor and nurses rush the newborn out of the room. Your husband follows the team and returns with some devastating news. The infant was born with spina bifida, and their spine is protruding out of their back. Your husband tells you that he wants to sue the doctor for not recognizing a problem with the fetus during the pregnancy.

Points of view to consider

- You, the pregnant patient
- Your physician
- Nurses
- Baby
- Your husband

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Contemporary Ethical Dilemmas and Their Implications

Ethical Scenario

You are a gynecologist working in a women's reproductive clinic. The clinic offers all types of services, including prenatal testing, abortions, birth control, hormone therapy, and wellness exams. You have a patient who is pregnant and approximately 32 weeks along. During her ultrasound, you see a well-formed fetus with a strong heartbeat. While you explain to your patient that the baby looks healthy and is developing well, she bursts into tears and tells you that she cannot have this baby. She asks if you will perform an abortion.

Points of view to consider

- You, the gynecologist
- Patient

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

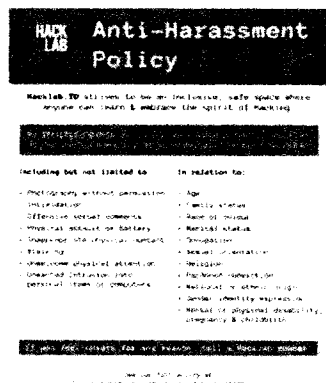
- What would you do?

Cultural Values

Choose a culture you are interested in and research the various parts of this culture identified below.

Topic	Examples
Three Traditions Practiced	
Languages Spoken	
Role of Ancestors in Beliefs	
Religions Found in this Culture	
One Example of How This Culture's Beliefs or Values Could Impact Healthcare Decisions	

Harassment Policy



Choose a hospital or clinic and research their harassment policy for employees and patients. Write a brief synopsis of their policy and reporting requirements.

Policy Summary:

Reporting Requirements:

Legal Scenario

It has been six months since you were hired as a medical assistant at a family practitioner's office. You have been feeling increasingly uncomfortable when you are alone with the physician. He constantly comments on your appearance, winks at you, and touches your arm whenever you are near him. You have tried to avoid being alone with him, but he always seems to find you. You are in the office filing patient records when he approaches you from behind and starts rubbing your shoulders and sniffing your hair.

Points of view to consider

- You, the medical assistant
- Physician

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Ethical Scenario

You are a paramedic who has responded to a call for a twelve-year-old female who was struck by a car while riding her bicycle. The patient has obvious deformity to her lower left leg and a hematoma to her forehead. The patient is alert and oriented and complains of stomach and head pain. While you assess and treat the patient, her parents arrive and tell you to stop touching their daughter. They refuse medical care and explain their religion does not believe in Western medicine.

Points of view to consider

- You, the paramedic
- Female bike accident patient
- Patient's parents

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Ethical Issues Involving Lack of Capacity and End-of-Life Care

Physician-Assisted Suicide

Choose a state and answer the questions in the space provided regarding state law relating to physician-assisted suicide. Suggested website: <https://deathwithdignity.org/in-your-state/>

State:

What the law says:

When enacted:

News stories or case examples involving this issue in this state:

Euthanasia Debate

Create a list of pros and cons surrounding the issue of euthanasia.

Pros	Cons

What side are you on? ☐ Pro ☐ Con

Ethical Issues Involving Lack of Capacity and End-of-Life Care

Legal Scenario

You are working as a licensed vocational nurse at a dementia facility when one of your patients, in a lucid moment, asks you to help them peacefully pass away so they can be with their spouse, who is deceased. Other than dementia, the patient has no medical problems. You contact the physician and explain what the patient requested, and he instructs you to administer what you know to be a lethal dose of a sedative.

Points of view to consider

- You, the nurse
- Patient
- Physician

Key questions

- What legal issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?

Ethical Issues Involving Lack of Capacity and End-of-Life Care

Ethical Scenario

It has been two years since your 76-year-old male patient has been on dialysis. He comes every day for 8 hours to the dialysis clinic where you work as a registered nurse. Recently, his wife of 50 years passed away, and your patient is telling you he has lost his will to live. He announces that today will be his last treatment. You say to him that he will die within three to four days without dialysis. He responds that it has been a pleasure getting to know you over the years, but he has made up his mind and wants to be with his wife.

Points of view to consider

- Male dialysis patient
- You, the RN

Key questions

- What ethical issues can you identify in this scenario?

- What would you do?