

Application Exercises Key

1. A. Fidelity is the fulfillment of promises. The nurse has not made any promises; this is the client's decision.
 B. **CORRECT:** In this situation, the client is exercising his right to make his own personal decision about surgery, regardless of others' opinions of what is "best" for him. This is an example of autonomy.
 C. Justice is fairness in care delivery and in the use of resources. Because the client has chosen not to use them, this principle does not apply.
 D. Nonmaleficence is a commitment to do no harm. In this situation, harm can occur whether or not the client has surgery. However, because he chooses not to, this principle does not apply.
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2. A. Fidelity is the fulfillment of promises. Unless the nurse has specifically promised the client a pain-free recovery, which is unlikely, this principle does not apply to this action.
 B. Autonomy is the right to make personal decisions, even when they are not necessarily in the person's best interest. In this situation, the nurse is delivering responsible client care. This principle does not apply.
 C. Justice is fairness in care delivery and in the use of resources. Pain management is available for all clients who are postoperative, so this principle does not apply.
 D. **CORRECT:** Beneficence is action that promotes good for others, without any self-interest. By administering pain medication before the client attempts a potentially painful exercise like ambulation, the nurse is taking a specific and positive action to help the client.
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3. A. Fidelity is the fulfillment of promises. Because donor organs are a scarce resource compared with the numbers of potential recipients who need them, no one can promise anyone an organ. Thus, this principle does not apply.
 B. Autonomy is the right to make personal decisions, even when they are not necessarily in the person's best interest. No personal decision is involved with the qualifications for organ recipients.
 C. **CORRECT:** Justice is fairness in care delivery and in the use of resources. By applying the same qualifications to all potential kidney transplant recipients, organ procurement organizations demonstrate this ethical principle in determining the allocation of these scarce resources.
 D. Nonmaleficence is a commitment to do no harm. In this situation, harm can occur to organ donors and to recipients. The requirements of the organ procurement organizations are standard procedures and do not address avoidance of harm or injury.
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4. A. Fidelity is the fulfillment of promises. The nurse is not addressing a specific promise when she determines the appropriateness of a prescription for the client. Thus, this principle does not apply.
 B. Autonomy is the right to make personal decisions, even when they are not necessarily in the person's best interest. No personal decision is involved when the nurse questions the client's prescription.
 C. Justice is fairness in care delivery and in the use of resources. In this situation, the nurse is delivering responsible client care and is not assessing available resources. This principle does not apply.
 D. **CORRECT:** Nonmaleficence is a commitment to do no harm. In this situation, administering the medication could harm the client. By questioning it, the nurse is demonstrating this ethical principle.
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5. A. Delivering client care while showing signs of a substance use disorder is a legal issue, not an ethical dilemma.
 B. A nurse who threatens to restrain a client has committed assault. This is a legal issue, not an ethical dilemma.
 C. **CORRECT:** Making the decision about initiating enteral tube feedings is an example of an ethical dilemma. A review of scientific data cannot resolve the issue, and it is not easy to resolve. The decision will have a profound effect on the situation and on the client.
 D. The selection of a person to make health care decisions on a client's behalf is a legal decision, not an ethical dilemma.
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PRACTICE Answer

Using the ATI Active Learning Template: Basic Concept

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES: Ethical decision-making is a process that requires striking a balance between science and morality.

NURSING INTERVENTIONS

- Identifying whether the issue is an ethical dilemma
- Gathering as much relevant information as possible about the dilemma
- Reflecting on one's own values as they relate to the dilemma
- Stating the ethical dilemma, including all surrounding issues and individuals it involves
- Listing and analyzing all possible options for resolving the dilemma with implications of each option
- Selecting the option that is in concert with the ethical principle that applies to this situation, the decision maker's values and beliefs, and the profession's values for client care
- Justifying the selection of one option in light of relevant variables

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