

Application Exercises

1. A nurse is caring for a client who decides not to have surgery despite significant blockages in his coronary arteries. The nurse understands that this client's choice is an example of which of the following ethical principles?
A. Fidelity
B. Autonomy
C. Justice
D. Nonmaleficence
2. A nurse offers pain medication to a client who is postoperative prior to ambulation. The nurse understands that this aspect of care delivery is an example of which of the following ethical principles?
A. Fidelity
B. Autonomy
C. Justice
D. Beneficence
3. A nurse is instructing a group of nursing students about the responsibilities organ donation and procurement involve. When the nurse explains that all clients waiting for a kidney transplant have to meet the same qualifications, the students should understand that this aspect of care delivery is an example of which of the following ethical principles?
A. Fidelity
B. Autonomy
C. Justice
D. Nonmaleficence
4. A nurse questions a medication prescription as too extreme in light of the client's advanced age and unstable status. The nurse understands that this action is an example of which of the following ethical principles?
A. Fidelity
B. Autonomy
C. Justice
D. Nonmaleficence
5. A nurse is instructing a group of nursing students about how to know and what to expect when ethical dilemmas arise. Which of the following situations should the students identify as an ethical dilemma?
A. A nurse on a medical-surgical unit demonstrates signs of chemical impairment.
B. A nurse overhears another nurse telling an older adult client that if he doesn't stay in bed, she will have to apply restraints.
C. A family has conflicting feelings about the initiation of enteral tube feedings for their father, who is terminally ill.
D. A client who is terminally ill hesitates to name her spouse on her durable power of attorney form.

PRACTICE Active Learning Scenario

A nurse is teaching a group of nursing students about the process of resolving ethical dilemmas. Use the ATI Active Learning Template: Basic Concept to complete this item.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES: Define the ethical decision-making process.

NURSING INTERVENTIONS: List the steps of making an ethical decision.

The ethical decision-making process is a systematic approach used to navigate complex situations with competing moral considerations.

- Steps of making an ethical Decision.
1. Identify the ethical problem
 2. Gather relevant information
 3. Identify values.
 4. Identify options.
 5. Evaluate the options
 6. Make the decision
 7. Implement the decision
 8. Evaluate the decision.

Application Exercises

1. A nurse observes an assistive personnel (AP) reprimanding a client for not using the urinal properly. The AP tells him she will put a diaper on him if he does not use the urinal more carefully next time. Which of the following torts is the AP committing?

 - A. Assault
 - B. Battery
 - C. False imprisonment
 - D. Invasion of privacy
2. A nurse is caring for a competent adult client who tells the nurse that he is thinking about leaving the hospital against medical advice. The nurse believes that this is not in the client's best interest, so she prepares to administer a PRN sedative medication the client has not requested along with his usual medication. Which of the following types of tort is the nurse about to commit?

 - A. Assault
 - B. False imprisonment
 - C. Negligence
 - D. Breach of confidentiality
3. A nurse in a surgeon's office is providing preoperative teaching for a client who is scheduled for surgery the following week. The client tells the nurse that he will prepare his advance directives before he goes to the hospital. Which of the following statements made by the client should indicate to the nurse an understanding of advance directives?

 - A. "I'd rather have my brother make decisions for me, but I know it has to be my wife."
 - B. "I know they won't go ahead with the surgery unless I prepare these forms."
 - C. "I plan to write that I don't want them to keep me on a breathing machine."
 - D. "I will get my regular doctor to approve my plan before I hand it in at the hospital."
4. A nurse is caring for a client who is about to undergo an elective surgical procedure. The nurse should take which of the following actions regarding informed consent? (Select all that apply.)

 - A. Make sure the surgeon obtained the client's consent.
 - B. Witness the client's signature on the consent form.
 - C. Explain the risks and benefits of the procedure.
 - D. Describe the consequences of choosing not to have the surgery.
 - E. Tell the client about alternatives to having the surgery.
5. A nurse has noticed several occasions in the past week when another nurse on the unit seemed drowsy and unable to focus on the issue at hand. Today, she found the nurse asleep in a chair in the break room when she was not on a break. Which of the following actions should the nurse take?

 - A. Alert the American Nurses Association.
 - B. Fill out an incident report.
 - C. Report the observations to the nurse manager on the unit.
 - D. Leave the nurse alone to sleep.