

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.