Study Guide: Ethics and Values in Nursing Practice

Chapter 22 – Fundamentals of Nursing

Key Terms and Definitions

Ethics: The study of conduct and character; what is right and wrong.
Values: Personal beliefs about the worth of an idea or behavior.
Morals: Judgments about behavior based on values.
Bioethics: Branch of ethics dealing with moral issues in healthcare and life sciences.
Autonomy: Respecting a person's right to make their own decisions.
Beneficence: Taking positive actions to help others.
Nonmaleficence: Avoiding harm or hurt.
Justice: Fairness in care and resource distribution.
Fidelity: Keeping promises and commitments.
Advocacy: Supporting and defending patient rights and safety.
Accountability: Being answerable for one's actions.
Confidentiality: Protecting patient privacy and personal health information.
Ethical Dilemma: A situation with conflicting moral choices and no clear right answer.
Moral Distress: Knowing the right action but being unable to act due to external constraints.
Values Clarification: Process of understanding personal beliefs to resolve ethical dilemmas.
Can you give examples of Terms

Ethical Principles in Nursing

- Autonomy – Respecting patient choices.
- Beneficence – Doing good for others.
- Nonmaleficence – Avoiding harm.
- Justice – Ensuring fairness.
- Fidelity – Being loyal and trustworthy
- **Give examples of ethical principles**

ANA Code of Ethics

The ANA Code of Ethics provides professional standards for nurses. It emphasizes advocacy, accountability, confidentiality, and respect for autonomy. It is updated every 10 years. Last one 2025.
Can you list the 10 items on the ethics poster & give example for each.

Ethical Frameworks

- Deontology: Duties and rules; right vs. wrong based on principles.
- Utilitarianism: Greatest good for the greatest number.
- Feminist Ethics: Relationships, social justice, and caring.
- Ethics of Care: Empathy, compassion, and context-based decisions.

Ethical Decision-Making Model

Be aware it exists and what it is used for

Common Ethical Dilemmas

- End-of-life decisions
- Informed consent
- Resource allocation
- Confidentiality in digital spaces

Role of the Nurse in Ethics

- Advocate for patient rights
- Maintain confidentiality
- Practice accountability
- Collaborate in decision-making
- Promote safe and compassionate care
- Stay educated on ethical standards

Study Tips

- Read Chapter 22 (pp. 319–329) in your textbook.
- Practice applying ethical principles to clinical scenarios.
- Use flashcards for key terms and definitions.

Study Guide: Legal Implications in Nursing Practice

Fundamentals of Nursing. Chapter: 23

1. Foundations of Nursing Law

Law: Formal rules by government to protect patients and ensure safety.
Ethics: Moral principles guiding compassionate, respectful care.
Standards of Practice: Guidelines from professional organizations (e.g., ANA) defining competent care.

Comparison Table:

Aspect	Law	Ethics	Standards of Practice
Source	Government	Moral philosophy	Professional orgs
Enforceability	Legally binding	Professionally expected	May have legal implications
Focus	Minimum behavior	Ideal behavior	Safe, competent care
Consequences	Fines, license loss	Moral accountability	Job review, discipline

2. Sources of Law in Nursing

Be able to define and give examples
Constitutional Law: Right to refuse treatment.
Statutory Law: Civil (e.g., Nurse Practice Acts) & Criminal (e.g., abuse).
Administrative Law: Regulatory bodies (e.g., BON).
Common Law: Implied rights (e.g., confidentiality).
Case Law: Legal decisions (e.g., Jefferson v. Mercy Hospital).

3. Scope & Standards of Practice

Defined by ANA and specialty organizations.
Based on laws, evidence-based guidelines, and agency policies.
Must reflect current best practices and be accessible to staff.

4. Federal Statutes

ACA (Affordable Care Act): Access, affordability, quality.
EMTALA: No patient dumping; must stabilize before transfer.
HIPAA & HITECH: Protect patient privacy; no social media sharing.
ADA: Equal rights for disabled individuals.
~~Mental Health Parity Act: Equal insurance coverage for mental health.~~
Patient Self-Determination Act: Advance directives and refusal rights.

~~Uniform Anatomical Gift Act: Organ donation system.~~
OBRA (1987): Nursing home reform; patient rights.

5. State Statutes

Nurse Practice Acts: Define scope, licensure, accountability.
State Boards of Nursing: License and regulate nurses.
Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC): Multi-state practice under one license.

6. Informed Consent

Patient must receive:
- Procedure explanation
- Risks and alternatives
- Right to refuse
- Must be obtained by the provider, witnessed, and done when patient is alert

7. Additional Legal Protections

Good Samaritan Laws: Protect nurses helping in emergencies.
Public Health Laws: Reporting abuse, communicable diseases.
Physician-Assisted Suicide: Varies by state; *ANA opposes nurse involvement.*
Uniform Determination of Death Act: Recognizes brain and cardiac death. Texas will accept either one.

8. Nursing Workforce Legal Issues

Staffing: Safe nurse-to-patient ratios.
Assignments: Nurses must disclose lack of training.
Abandonment: Illegal after nurse-patient relationship is established.
Delegation: RN retains responsibility; must supervise.
Students: Must stay within scope; instructors share liability.

9. Torts & Malpractice

Define and give examples
Intentional: Assault, battery, false imprisonment.
Quasi-intentional: Defamation (slander, libel).
Unintentional: Negligence, malpractice.

Malpractice Criteria:
1. Duty owed
2. Breach of duty
3. Injury occurred
4. Damages allowed

10. Risk Management & Legal Protection

Risk Management: Identify, analyze, reduce, evaluate risks.
QI/PI Programs: Improve care and reduce legal exposure.
Incident Reports: Confidential but discoverable in court.

11. Professional Involvement

Stay informed
Use clinical judgment
Join professional organizations
Help define standards of care

Study Tips

- Read Chapter 23 in your Fundamentals of Nursing book
- Practice applying legal principles to clinical scenarios.
- Use flashcards for key terms and definitions.