

**Ethics for Health Care Personnel****Prerequisites**

None

**Course Description**

Focuses on ethical concepts of health care. Emphasizes confidentiality, maintaining patient records, personal appearance, professionalism with patients/clients, associates, and an awareness of health care facilities.

Semester Credits: 2

Lecture Hours: 2

Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0

**Required Materials**

Textbook:

Medical Law and Ethics. Fifth Edition. Bonnie F. Fregmen, Ph.D.

Pearson Co. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-399898-6

**Course Outcomes**

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Review central moral, philosophical, and social problems in medicine and health policy
- Reflect on the physician's responsibilities in helping to develop and implement social policies regarding health care delivery
- Develop critical skills for evaluating and articulating moral and philosophical claims, arguments, and goals frequently found in practice and medical literature
- Formulate, present, and defend a position on a moral or policy issue in health care and to be able to communicate these ideas and conclusions effectively, both orally and in writing to patients, patients' families, colleagues and other decision makers in society
- Reflect on the relationships among moral, professional, and legal obligations of physicians, including those involving honesty, and respect for patient well-being, autonomy, dignity and confidentiality

## **Topical Description**

### **1. Introduction to Medical Law, Ethics, and Bioethics**

- Why Study Law, Ethics, and Bioethics
- Medical Law
- Ethics
- Models for Examining Ethical Dilemmas
- What Ethics Is Not
- Bioethics
- The Role of Ethics Committees
- Quality Assurance Programs
- Medical Etiquette

### **2. The Legal System**

- **The Legal System**
- **Sources of Law**
- **Classification of Laws**
- **The Court Systems**
- **The Trial Process**

### **3. Essentials of the Legal System for Healthcare Professionals**

- **Medical Practice Acts**
- **Licensure of the Physician**
- **Standard of Care**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Statute of Limitations**
- **Good Samaritan Laws**
- **Respondent Superior**
- **Risk Management**

### **4. Working in Today's Healthcare Environment**

- **Today's Healthcare Environment**
- **Types of Medical Practice**

- **The Ethics of Fee Splitting**
- **Medical Specialty Boards**
- **Allied Health Professionals**

#### **5. The Physician-Patient Relationship**

- **Physician's Rights**
- **Physician's Responsibilities**
- **Professional Practice Responsibilities**
- **Patient's Rights**
- **Rights of Minors**
- **Patients' Responsibilities**
- **Role of the Healthcare Consumer**

#### **6. Professional Liability and Medical Malpractice**

- **Professional Negligence and Medical Malpractice**
- **The Tort of Negligence**
- **Fraud**
- **Office of Inspector General**
- **Defense to Malpractice Suits**
- **Professional Liability**
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution**
- **Liability of Other Health Professionals**
- **Tort Reform**
- **Malpractice Prevention**

#### **7. Public Duties of the Healthcare Professional**

- **Public Health Records and Vital Statistics**
- **Controlled Substances Act and Regulations**
- **Protection for the Employee and the Environment**

#### **8. Workplace Law and Ethics**

- **Professionalism in the Workplace**
- **Discrimination in the Workplace**
- **Privacy and the Workplace**
- **Cultural Considerations**
- **Religious Considerations**
- **Effective Hiring Practices**

- **Legal and Illegal Interview Questions**
- **Federal Regulations Affecting the Professionals**
- **Equal Employment Opportunity and Employment Discrimination**
- **Employee Health and Safety**
- **Compensation and Benefits Regulations**
- **Consumer Protection and Collection Practices**

## **9. The Medical Record**

- **Purpose of the Medical Record**
- **Contents of the Medical Record**
- **Ownership of the Medical Record**
- **Confidentiality and the Medical Record**
- **Retention and Storage of Medical Records**
- **Use of the Medical Record in Court**

## **10. Patient Confidentiality and HIPPA**

- **Confidentiality**
- **Privacy Act**
- **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) of 1996**
- **Ethical Concerns with Information Technology (Informatics)**

## **11. Ethical and Bioethical Issues in Medicine**

- **Early History**
- **Ethical Standards and Behavior**
- **Codes of Ethics**
- **Codes of Ethics for Other Medical Professionals**
- **Bioethical Issues**
- **Ethical Issues and Personal Choice**
- **The Ethics of Biomedical Research**
- **Human Genome Project**
- **Genetic Engineering**

## **12. Ethical Issues Relating to Life**

- **Fetal Development**
- **Assisted or Artificial Conception**

- **Contraception**
- **Sterilization**
- **Abortion**
- **Genetic Counseling and Testing**
- **Wrongful-Life Suits**

### **13. Death and Dying**

- **The Dying Process**
- **Legal Definition of Death**
- **Stages of Dying**
- **Quality-Of-Life Issues**
- **Use of Medications**
- **Hospice Care**
- **Palliative Care**
- **Viatical Settlements**
- **Advance Directives**
- **Choices in life and death**

### **14. Future Trends in Healthcare**

- **Problems in the Current Healthcare System**
- **New Advances and Improvement in Healthcare**
- **Healthcare Trends and Reform**
- **The Ethics of Care under the Affordable Care Act**

**Note to Instructors: Syllabus should state what the course grade will be based on, such as tests, quizzes, a comprehensive final exam and any other assignments made by the instructor.**