

Chapter 2: Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Multiple Choice

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- _____ 1. The nurse is providing care for a patient close to delivery. The patient continuously asks the nurse for medication to “stop the pain.” Which ethical principle does the nurse use when replying, “We need to protect the baby from being overmedicated. Let me help you with some breathing and relaxation techniques”?
 - 1. Beneficence
 - 2. Veracity
 - 3. Fidelity
 - 4. Nonmaleficence
- _____ 2. A patient at 30 weeks’ gestation with a first pregnancy arrives at the labor and delivery unit with contractions. After monitoring the patient, the nurse determines the woman is in active labor and calls the health-care provider (HCP), who prescribes a sleeping medication and sends the patient home. Which action does the nurse take?
 - 1. Follows the HCP’s instructions as prescribed.
 - 2. Administers the medication and keeps the patient.
 - 3. Calls another HCP for a different prescription.
 - 4. Questions the HCP’s prescribed treatment.
- _____ 3. The nurse is providing care for a patient in labor. The unborn fetus was diagnosed with severe microcephaly at 20 weeks’ gestation. The patient tells the nurse, “We want everything done to save our baby who has as much right to a good life as anyone else.” Which ethical approach does this represent?
 - 1. Autonomy
 - 2. Libertarianism
 - 3. Utilitarianism
 - 4. Egalitarianism
- _____ 4. The nurse is experiencing an ethical dilemma when confronted with a situation in which either the mother or fetus is predicted to die. The nurse feels bound by the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics to protect both patients. Which aspect of care during an ethical dilemma will guide the nurse?
 - 1. The nurse is ethically bound to provide the best care for both the mother and fetus.
 - 2. Maternity nurses are bound to advocate first and foremost for the well-being of the mother.
 - 3. If the fetus is viable and healthy, its survival is the priority of the maternity nurse.
 - 4. Survival of the mother is solely based on both patient and family’s decision-making.

- _____ 5. The new grad nurse is employed in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). With each new admission, the neonate is classified in a specific category regarding care. The nurse is in the process of admitting a neonate at 22 weeks' gestation with multiple life-threatening conditions involving both cardiac and respiratory systems. In which category of care does the nurse expect the neonate to be placed?
1. The category where aggressive care is mostly uncertain
 2. The category where aggressive care is likely to be beneficial
 3. The category where aggressive care is probably futile
 4. The category of "wait and see" to determine possible survival
- _____ 6. The nurse on a maternity unit practices her faith as an Orthodox Jew whose rabbi teaches that pregnancy terminations are permitted only to save the life of the mother. Which situation becomes possible if the nurse puts aside personal values and assists with elective terminations?
1. Loss of spirituality
 2. Legal actions
 3. Moral distress
 4. Professional dilemma
- _____ 7. The nurse works in the maternal-newborn unit dedicated to management of high-risk pregnancy and delivery. A patient has delivered two children who died from a genetic disorder. The current pregnancy tests positive for the same disorder. Which ethical decision-making model will the nurse use with this patient?
1. The model that focuses on quality of life
 2. The model that focuses on patient preference
 3. The model that focuses on religion and culture
 4. The model that focuses on medical treatment
- _____ 8. The nurse in an obstetrician's office is discussing a patient's request for legally terminating an unwanted pregnancy after the fetus tests positive for Down syndrome. The woman and her spouse have five children from ages 11 to 17 years, and the family lives in an isolated rural area. Which action does the nurse take?
1. Inform the patient of programs to meet the needs of special children.
 2. Inquire about the presence of an extended family support system.
 3. Share that children with Down syndrome can be high functioning.
 4. Tell the physician of contextual factors identifying an ethical dilemma.
- _____ 9. The nurse is assisting a patient in the use of an ethical decision-making model related to quality of life. Which question is inappropriate when using this model?
1. What are the prospects for a normal life?
 2. Which types of deficits for the patient are likely?
 3. Are arrangements made for prolonging life?
 4. Does a present or future condition make life undesirable?
- _____ 10. A nurse is suspended for refusal to participate in the performance of an elective termination of a pregnancy. Which specific group's standards does the nurse use for job reinstatement?
1. American Nurses Association (ANA)
 2. State Board of Nursing

3. Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
4. Facility ethics committee

- _____ 11. The nurse in an obstetrics (OB) office is evaluating a patient who exhibits vaginal bleeding at 30 weeks' gestation. The patient is prescribed bedrest at home and instructed to avoid lifting. The patient states, "I cannot go to bed, I have an 18-month-old at home." On which topic of the Jonsen Model for ethical decision-making will the nurse focus?
1. Medical indications
 2. Quality of life
 3. Patient preferences
 4. Contextual features
- _____ 12. The nurse works in the labor and delivery department. Which action by the nurse indicates a breach in the nursing care principles outlined by the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)?
1. Assists with an emergency delivery of a woman in a homeless shelter.
 2. Declines a patient assignment because of a history of illegal drug use.
 3. Suggests a nurse care for a patient who speaks the same native language.
 4. Informs employer of religious beliefs against pregnancy termination.
- _____ 13. The nurse manager in the labor and delivery unit decides that all unit nurses are to take a course in electronic fetal monitoring (EFM) as recommended by the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). Which is the most important issue related to EFM the nurse manager is expecting to address?
1. Reduce failure to accurately assess maternal and fetal status.
 2. Strengthen the staff's level of confidence with monitoring.
 3. Eliminate the amount of litigation related to fetal injury.
 4. Improve the lack of communication with health-care providers.
- _____ 14. The nurse works in a postpartum maternal-newborn unit and notices a newborn who is exhibiting signs of distress. Through investigation, the nurse learns the newborn's mother has a history of abusing street drugs. Which facility system does the nurse report as being deficient?
1. Newborn monitoring
 2. Risk management
 3. Patient information
 4. Admission process
- _____ 15. An experienced obstetrics (OB) nurse has accepted a position in labor and delivery of an inner-city hospital providing care for multicultural clients. Which action by the nurse is most helpful in preparation for this position?
1. Reviewing quantitative research focused on current birth procedures
 2. Comparing facility policies with recent research recommendations
 3. Obtaining access to the department's recent research of evidence-based practice
 4. Intensely studying qualitative research focused on practice enhancement
- _____ 16. Which of the following statements is true with regard to cultural competence and cultural humility?
1. Cultural competence is no longer required.

2. Cultural competence includes ongoing self-reflection and education in which health-care professionals seek to gain an awareness of their own assumptions and biases that contribute to health disparities.
3. Cultural humility includes ongoing self-reflection and education in which health-care professionals seek to gain an awareness of their own assumptions and biases that contribute to health disparities.
4. Cultural competence is acquired through international global health work.

- _____ 17. Nurses' responsibilities for speaking up to advocate for the rights, health, and safety of patients are outlined in which of the following?
1. American Academy of Nursing Policy Priorities
 2. American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses
 3. American Medical Association Vision on Health Care Reform
 4. American Academy of Colleges of Nursing

Multiple Response

Identify one or more choices that best complete the statement or answer the question.

- _____ 18. Parents of a neonate are grieving over their child's life-threatening disabilities. The neonate's course of treatment has changed three times in the last 24 hours due to irrational parental decisions. Which interventions will the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) nurse implement in order to fulfill nursing responsibility to both the parents and the neonate? **Select all that apply.**
1. Inform the parents as to realistic expectations.
 2. Elicit parental input regarding medical care.
 3. Use the neonate's status with parental counseling.
 4. Advocate for medical support of the neonate.
 5. Inform parents they are the final decision-makers.
- _____ 19. The labor and delivery nurse is providing care to a patient in active labor. The nurse notes electronic fetal monitoring (EFM) changes that suggest fetal distress and monitors the fetus for an additional 20 minutes before calling the health-care provider. The health-care provider determines that an emergency cesarean delivery is required. During transport, EFM is interrupted and not resumed due to expectations of an emergent procedure. A stillborn fetus is delivered. For which actions can the nurse be held legally responsible? **Select all that apply.**
1. Lack of appropriate response to fetal compromise
 2. Inappropriate use of oxytocin, causing fetal distress
 3. Performance of a technical error related to monitoring
 4. Delayed communication resulting in a delay of cesarean
 5. Inability to initiate resuscitation to a compromised fetus
- _____ 20. Which factors will facilitate the integration of evidence-based practice (EBP) in the maternal-newborn clinical setting? **Select all that apply.**
1. Frame clinical questions in the PICOT (patient, intervention, comparison, outcome and [sometimes] time) format.
 2. Base practical decisions on nursing consensus.
 3. Cultivate a spirit of inquiry in the workplace.

4. Encourage the use of trial-and-error methods.
5. Collect the best and most relevant evidence.

_____ 21. The nursing department of a large facility is interested in improving clinical care with the introduction of evidence-based practice (EBP). Which barriers to EBP does the nursing department expect within the facility? **Select all that apply.**

1. Changes in nursing academia to include how to integrate research into practice
2. A general lack of information addressing nursing-focused research and change
3. Outdated facility politics and policies that do not embrace research-based change
4. Limited resources available to clinical care providers from nursing administration
5. Resistance by other health-care professionals to providing nursing with autonomy

Chapter 2: Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. ANS: 1

Chapter: Chapter 2 Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Chapter Learning Objective: 2. Debate ethical issues in maternity nursing.

Page: 20

Heading: Ethics in Nursing Practice > Ethical Principles

Integrated Processes: Caring

Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]

Concept: Patient-Centered Care

Difficulty: Moderate

	Feedback
1	This is correct. Beneficence is the ethical principle related to doing good. The nurse is describing why additional medication is not given but is also offering to assist with other methods of pain management.
2	This is incorrect. Veracity is the ethical principle dealing with being truthful with the patient about risks or admitting that the nurse needs assistance in providing appropriate care. Veracity is not the best description of the nurse's statement.
3	This is incorrect. Fidelity is the ethical principle of being accountable and responsible for the care of the patient. This principle is most strongly related to handing off patient care to another nurse.
4	This is incorrect. Nonmaleficence is the ethical principle that supports avoidance of actions that will cause harm. The first part of the nurse's statement does address nonmaleficence, but the principle of beneficence is best supported by the complete statement.

PTS: 1

CON: Patient-Centered Care

2. ANS: 4

Chapter: Chapter 2 Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Chapter Learning Objective: 3. Explore standards of practice in maternity nursing.

Page: 20

Heading: Ethics in Nursing Practice > ANA Code of Ethics

Integrated Processes: Nursing Process

Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]

Concept: Collaboration

Difficulty: Moderate

	Feedback
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1	This is incorrect. Once the nurse determines the patient is in active labor, the nurse needs to use the ANA Code of Ethics to guide nursing actions. Following questionable treatment prescriptions does not relieve the nurse of responsibility.
2	This is incorrect. Administering the prescribed medication and keeping the patient on the unit is in direct conflict with the HCP's prescription. The nurse should question the HCP's prescribed treatment.
3	This is incorrect. It is unprofessional for the nurse to call another HCP for different orders. If the nurse is not successful in getting the prescribed treatment changed, the nursing supervisor is notified to discuss concerns with the prescribing HCP.
4	This is correct. According to the ANA Code of Ethics, the nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of all patients. The nurse needs to question the HCP's prescribed treatment.

PTS: 1 CON: Collaboration

3. ANS: 4

Chapter: Chapter 2 Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Chapter Learning Objective: 2. Debate ethical issues in maternity nursing.

Page: 21

Heading: Ethics in Nursing Practice > Ethical Approaches

Integrated Processes: Nursing Process

Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

Cognitive Level: Analysis [Analyzing]

Concept: Ethics

Difficulty: Moderate

	Feedback
1	This is incorrect. Autonomy is a patient's right to make health-care decisions regardless of the outcome; however, autonomy is not considered specifically to be an ethical approach.
2	This is incorrect. Libertarianism is the ethical principle that promotes the idea that some people are more valuable to society than others, and those persons should be given the resources needed to survive. To do otherwise is seen as a waste of resources.
3	This is incorrect. Utilitarianism is the ethical principle that supports distributing resources to produce the greatest good for the greatest number of people. This principle opposes distribution of resources to only a few.
4	This is correct. Egalitarianism is the ethical principle being expressed by the patient. The principle focuses on the belief that all people are equal and resources should be distributed according to need. The focus is to protect the marginal or vulnerable members of society.

PTS: 1 CON: Ethics

4. ANS: 2

Chapter: Chapter 2 Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Chapter Learning Objective: 3. Explore standards of practice in maternity nursing.

Page: 22

Heading: Ethics in Nursing Practice > Ethical Dilemmas

Integrated Processes: Nursing Process

Client Need: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]

Concept: Ante/Intra/Post-partum

Difficulty: Difficult

	Feedback
1	This is incorrect. Maternity nurses are expected to advocate for both maternal and fetal well-being; however, it is understood that it may not be to “do the right thing” for both.
2	This is correct. Practice dictates that the primary advocacy role of maternity nurses is on the behalf of the mother.
3	This is incorrect. The loss of a healthy viable fetus is tremendous. However, during an ethical dilemma, the primary role of maternity nurses is on the behalf of the mother.
4	This is incorrect. It is never expected for the patient or family members to make a choice between the survival of the mother or the fetus.

PTS: 1

CON: Ante/Intra/Post-partum

5. ANS: 3

Chapter: Chapter 2 Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Chapter Learning Objective: 2. Debate ethical issues in maternity nursing.

Page: 22

Heading: Ethics in Nursing Practice > Ethics in Neonatal Care

Integrated Processes: Nursing Process

Client Need: Physiological Integrity: Physiological Adaptation

Cognitive Level: Analysis [Analyzing]

Concept: Ethics

Difficulty: Moderate

	Feedback
1	This is incorrect. Aggressive care for this neonate is definitely uncertain; however, because of prematurity and profound life-threatening conditions, the neonate’s prognosis is extremely poor or hopeless.
2	This is incorrect. The condition of the neonate does not support the possibility of aggressive care being beneficial.
3	This is correct. The neonate is notably premature with complex issues involving two major, life-sustaining body systems. Aggressive care is probably futile, and the prognosis for a meaningful life is extremely poor or hopeless.
4	This is incorrect. There is no “wait and see” category in the care of compromised neonates in the NICU.

PTS: 1

CON: Ante/Intra/Post-partum

6. ANS: 3

Chapter: Chapter 2 Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Chapter Learning Objective: 1. Define key terms.

Page: 22

Heading: Ethics in Nursing Practice > Ethical Dilemmas

Integrated Processes: Nursing Process

Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]

Concept: Ethics

Difficulty: Moderate

	Feedback
1	This is incorrect. The nurse may or may not experience a loss of spirituality. The development of moral distress is most likely.
2	This is incorrect. If the nurse is assisting with elective pregnancy terminations in a legally identified location and manner, it is unexpected for the nurse to face legal actions.
3	This is correct. When a nurse puts aside values and carries out an action believed to be wrong, it creates a situation of moral distress.
4	This is incorrect. The nurse may experience some type of personal dilemma; however, professional dilemma is not likely.

PTS: 1

CON: Ethics

7. ANS: 1

Chapter: Chapter 2 Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Chapter Learning Objective: 2. Debate ethical issues in maternity nursing.

Page: 24

Heading: Ethics in Nursing Practice > Ethical Decision-Making Models > Quality of Life

Integrated Processes: Caring

Client Need: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]

Concept: Ethics

Difficulty: Moderate

	Feedback
1	This is correct. The most appropriate decision-making model in this scenario is the one that considers the quality of life. The important considerations involve the well-being of both the patient and the unborn fetus.
2	This is incorrect. The actual patient in this scenario is uncertain, making the use of the patient preference model questionable. With a genetic disorder, the possibility of a lose-lose outcome is high.
3	This is incorrect. The model that focuses on finances, religion, and culture is based on contextual features. Although consideration is necessary, this is not the most appropriate model for the nurse to use in this scenario.
4	This is incorrect. The model that focuses on medical treatment may or may not

	be applicable for this patient. The patient has already lost two children to the same genetic disorder. Unless a new method of treatment is available, this is not the appropriate decision-making model.
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PTS: 1 CON: Ethics

8. ANS: 4

Chapter: Chapter 2 Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Chapter Learning Objective: 2. Debate ethical issues in maternity nursing.

Page: 24

Heading: Ethics in Nursing Practice > Ethical Decision-Making Models > Contextual Features

Integrated Processes: Caring

Client Need: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

Cognitive Level: Analysis [Analyzing]

Concept: Ethics

Difficulty: Difficult

	Feedback
1	This is incorrect. The location of the family in an isolated rural area may add complexity and problems with regard to acquiring assistance with meeting the needs of a special needs child.
2	This is incorrect. Family support of any kind may or may not exist. The availability of long-term care and support may not be possible.
3	This is incorrect. It is true that some children with Down syndrome are high functioning. However, many are also born with other developmental and medical issues, which can cause financial, emotional, and medical care burdens.
4	This is correct. The situation includes conditions that cause an ethical dilemma. The nurse will inform the health-care provider about the patient's request in regard to the ethical decision-making model related to contextual features.

PTS: 1 CON: Ethics

9. ANS: 3

Chapter: Chapter 2 Ethics and Standards of Practice Issues

Chapter Learning Objective: 1. Define key terms.

Page: 24

Heading: Ethics in Nursing Practice > Ethical Decision-Making Models > Quality of Life

Integrated Processes: Nursing Process

Client Need: Physiological Integrity: Physiological Adaptation

Cognitive Level: Analysis [Analyzing]

Concept: Patient-Centered Care

Difficulty: Moderate

	Feedback
1	This is incorrect. With the use of the ethical decision-making model, a quality of life consideration is whether the patient will experience a normal life.
2	This is incorrect. Consideration must be given to the deficits that the patient is