GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
School of Nursing
Graduate Program

Legal and Ethical Issues in Health Care Management
166-663-01

Instructors: Sheila Cohen Zimmet, RN, JD Fall Semester 1990
Judith M. Cassells, RN, DNSc Tuesdays
Office Hours by Appointment Time: 4:15-7:05 p.m.

Course Outline

Session 1: Introduction to Ethical and Legal Theories and Principles; Ethical and
September 4 Legal Reasoning / Ethical Decision-Making; Relationship Between Law
and Ethics; Codes of Professional Ethics; Access to Information and
Resources; Overview of Contemporary Ethical and Legal Issues Impacting
Upon Nurses as Administrators and Health Care Providers; History of
Nursing Ethics (Education/Programs) (BLLCS 1-7)*

Session 2: Malpractice
September 11 (BLLCS 8.5)*

Session 3: Informed Consent: Autonomy, Right to Refuse Treatment, Competence,
September 18 Minors and Consent, Surrogate Consent; Right to Information, Truth
telling.
(BLLCS 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3)*

Session 4: Confidentiality; Right to Privacy; Disclosure; Peer Review privilege
September 25 (BLLCS 8.4)*

Session 5: The Regulatory process; Allocation of Health Care Resources; The
October 2 Distribution of Health Care Resources; DRG's; The Nurse Practitioner
Acts; EEO and Labor Relations, Strikes/Collective Bargaining; Nursing
Shortage
(BLLCS 9)*

Session 6: Death and Dying Part I: Ethical Issues, Definition/Determination of Death;
October 9 Attitudes toward death; Caring for patients with poor prognoses; Terminal
Illness, Prolongation of life, Euthanasia, Living Wills, Withholding of
hydration and nutrition
(BLLCS 20)*
Session 7: Death and Dying Part II: Legal Issues
October 16

Session 8: Human Reproduction and Genetics: Abortion, Sterilization, Teenage Pregnancy, Genetic Counseling; Genetic Engineering and Fetal Therapy; Wrongful birth/wrongful life litigation (BLLCS 11-15)*
October 23

Session 9: Neonatal/Pediatric Care: Birth of a severely handicapped infant; parental sovereignty; Baby Doe legislation; ethical and legal dilemmas in the special care nursery; Adoption issues. (BLLCS 4.4, 9.4, 9.5.3, 18.5.4, 20.4.2, 20.5.2)
October 30

Session 10: Mental Health: Mental Retardation, Level of Competence, Confidentiality, Involuntary hospitalization; Specific treatment modalities; Psychopharmacology (BLLCS 4.3, 4.4, 17, 18.5.6 ) *
November 6

Session 11: HIV Infection -Special Issues: AIDS Testing, Pre and Post Test Counseling, Confidentiality, Surrogate Decision-Making, Living Wills, Suicide, Risk/Benefit Ratio; Universal precautions; OSHA; Employment issues, discrimination. (BLLCS 4. 4, 8, 9. 6, 18, 20) *
November 13

Session 12: Human Experimentation and Transplantation: Policy Guidelines; Institutional Review Boards, Informed Consent; Behavioral research; Research on Special Populations; Donation and procurement of tissues and organs; Allocation of Resources (BLLCS 18 and 19)*
November 20

Session 13: Moot Ethics Committee
November 27

Session 14: Summary, Post Assessment and Evaluation: Perspective of the Future / Nursing Trends; Tort Reform legislation; Identification of nursing administrative strategies for ethical assessment; development and support of an organization's nursing staff; Preparing staff nurses and nursing leaders in their ethical decision-making skills (Basic/core versus advanced ethics orientation / inservice content).
December 4

*BIOETHICS LITERATURE LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION SCHEME; NATIONAL REFERENCE CENTER
Required Texts

Mary Cipriano Silva, *Ethical Decision Making in Nursing Administration* (Appleton & Lane, Conn, 1990)


Legal Materials to be Distributed

Recommended Texts


