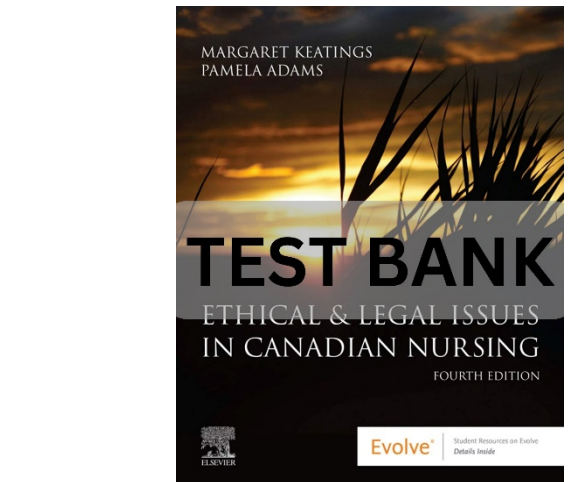


Ethical & Legal Issues in Canadian Nursing 4th Edition Test Bank

Chapter 01: An Introduction to the Ethics and the Law: A Perspective for Nurses Keatings: Ethical & Legal Issues in Canadian Nursing, 4th Edition



MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following mandates that nurses have a basic understanding of the Canadian legal system?
 - a. Provincial and federal nursing bodies
 - b. The Supreme Court of Canada
 - c. Provincial nursing labor unions
 - d. The *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act*, 1990

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	Correct! Provincial and territorial regulatory bodies, have certain requirements related to nurses' knowledge/skill, which includes knowledge of the legal system.
B	Incorrect—The Supreme Court, which is the final court of appeal in Canada, is not involved in the regulation of health care professionals.
C	Incorrect—Labour unions do not focus on nursing standards and knowledge; rather, they represent the collective bargaining rights of nurses.
D	Incorrect—This Act is relevant to nursing in that it regulates the prescribing, dispensing, and handling of drugs. It does not mandate the knowledge nurses require about the legal system.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

2. Identify one of the reasons why nurses need to have an understanding of ethics.
 - a. Nurses do not share the same perspectives regarding health care with other health care professionals.
 - b. Morality and care are at the heart of nursing practice.
 - c. Ethics provides a clear answer to nurses regarding the correct course of action.
 - d. Convincing family members of compassionate courses of action is best done by nurses.

ANS: B

Feedback

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A	Incorrect—Professional values may be shared across multiple professions, and perspectives on issues may be similar. When views on an issue differ, then knowledge of ethics assists in clarifying and defending one’s position to others.
B	Correct! One reason for nurses studying ethics is that morality and care are at the heart of nursing practice.
C	Incorrect—Ethical theories can provide a framework for the exploration of the ethical questions and moral issues faced in health care. These theories guide how morality is understood within the sphere of nursing practice and the nurse–patient or nurse–client relationship. Ethical theories and frameworks can assist/guide nurses as they consider multiple options to choose the <i>best</i> or the <i>least wrong</i> course of action.
D	Incorrect—Nurses as members of the health care team are in a strong position to support families. They respect the values and beliefs of clients and families and support them in decision making regarding the right course of action.

DIF: Cognitive level: Synthesis

3. Why is it advantageous for nurses to have knowledge of ethical theories and principles?
 - a. Ethical theories encourage nurses to critique others’ points of view.
 - b. Nurses are able to justify and defend their positions on a situation.
 - c. Ethical theories help nurses explain to the rest of the team why nurses have a greater understanding of the patient’s perspective.
 - d. This knowledge allows nurses to convince patients to choose comfort measures only.

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—Ethics encourages nurses to respect the values of others and assists in understanding opposing points of view. Ethics offers tools to nurses to respectfully argue in favour of their positions while respecting the perspectives of others.
B	Correct! When views differ, ethical theories help clarify one’s position and make arguments in support of it. Nurses ensure that all relevant information is shared with the team and the client.
C	Incorrect—The perspective of all team members is important and is based on the unique relationships each nurse has with the patient or client.
D	Incorrect—This approach is paternalistic. Nurses and the health care team, while respecting a person’s autonomy, support him or her in making decisions about what is best in a particular context. This includes ensuring that patients are aware of all the options available to them.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

4. Why must nurses be familiar with the legal system?
 - a. Some nursing actions are governed by the law.
 - b. Nurses’ decisions may not be supported by the law.
 - c. Nurses are sometimes at risk for litigation.
 - d. All are correct.

ANS: D

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	Feedback
A	Incorrect—Reserved or controlled acts and the administration of narcotics are two examples of nursing actions governed by the law. A nurse may think an action is “ethical,” but it may not be legal. Nurses’ decisions sometimes have untoward consequences, and errors or omissions may lead to negligence claims.
B	Incorrect—Reserved or controlled acts and the administration of narcotics are two examples of nursing actions governed by the law. A nurse may think an action is “ethical,” but it may not be legal. Nurses’ decisions sometimes have untoward consequences, and errors or omissions may lead to negligence claims.
C	Incorrect—Reserved or controlled acts and the administration of narcotics are two examples of nursing actions governed by the law. A nurse may think an action is “ethical,” but it may not be legal. Nurses’ decisions sometimes have untoward consequences, and errors or omissions may lead to negligence claims.
D	Correct! Reserved or controlled acts and the administration of narcotics are two examples of nursing actions governed by the law. A nurse may think an action is “ethical,” but it may not be legal. Nurses’ decisions sometimes have untoward consequences, and errors or omissions may lead to negligence claims.

DIF: Cognitive level: Analysis

5. What existing legislation has been influenced by the shifting of Canadian values over time?
- The abolition of capital punishment
 - Privacy
 - Medical Assistance in Dying
 - All are correct

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—One reason for the abolition of capital punishment is based on the belief in the sanctity of life and the concern that an innocent person may be executed.
B	Incorrect—Respect for autonomy and privacy led to legislation in provinces across Canada.
C	Incorrect—Shifting views regarding euthanasia for the terminally ill led the Supreme Court to create a law regarding assistance in dying. This resulted in the legislation “Medical Assistance in Dying,” which was introduced in 2016.
D	Correct! All of these are examples of how shifting Canadian values have influenced legislation.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

TRUE/FALSE

1. In addition to having obligations to clients, nurses also have rights regarding what they can expect as professionals.

ANS: T

	Feedback
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Correct	Like all Canadians, nurses have rights under the <i>Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> . Nurses consider these rights in the context of their responsibilities and obligations to clients.
Incorrect	Like all Canadians, nurses have rights under the <i>Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> . Nurses must consider these rights in the context of their responsibilities and obligations to clients.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

2. Through the *Canada Health Act*, the federal government is given authority over health care in Canada.

ANS: F

	Feedback
Correct	Health Care is a provincial responsibility. Only the conditions under which the federal government funds health care is specified in the Act.
Incorrect	Health Care is a provincial responsibility. Only the conditions under which the federal government funds health care is specified in the Act.

DIF: Cognitive level: Knowledge

3. The field of ethics is gaining greater prominence, in part, because of the growing sophistication of science and technology.

ANS: T

	Feedback
Correct	Recent advances in genetics, transplantation, and reproductive biotechnology, have opened up an entirely new array of ethical dilemmas, not previously known. This raises the question “Just because you can do something, should you?”
Incorrect	Recent advances in genetics, transplantation, and reproductive biotechnology, have opened up an entirely new array of ethical dilemmas, not previously known. This raises the question “Just because you can do something, should you?”

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

4. A nurse is justified in accessing the chart of a friend who is a patient on another unit because she is aware of her friend’s serious allergy to antibiotics and wants to make sure this is documented.

ANS: F

	Feedback
Correct	It is inappropriate for a nurse to access the record of a patient who is outside of his or her “circle of care.” If the friend is not capable of disclosing this information, then to prevent serious harm, the nurse should disclose this information to the team if the friend’s family or substitute decision maker is not available to do so.

Ethical & Legal Issues in Canadian Nursing 4th Edition Test Bank

Incorrect	It is inappropriate for a nurse to access the record of a patient who is outside of his or her “circle of care.” If the friend is not capable of disclosing this information, then to prevent serious harm, the nurse should disclose this information to the team if the friend’s family or substitute decision maker is not available to do so.
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DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

5. A resident in long-term has been deteriorating for a number of days. His daughter has been with him most of the time and is exhausted. The nurse encourages her to go home to get some rest. A few hours later, it becomes clear to the staff that death is imminent. Appreciating how exhausted the daughter is, the nurse is justified in not disturbing her.

ANS: F

	Feedback
Correct	The nurse is denying the daughter the opportunity to be present with her father so that he does not die alone. It is the daughter’s, not the nurse’s, choice to make. This may also have implications for the grieving process.
Incorrect	The nurse is denying the daughter the opportunity to be present with her father so that he does not die alone. It is the daughter’s, not the nurse’s, choice to make. This may also have implications for the grieving process.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

Chapter 02: Ethical Theories: Their Meaning for Nursing Keatings: Ethical & Legal Issues in Canadian Nursing, 4th Edition

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. How may ethics be **best** described?
- The philosophical study of morality
 - The process of value clarification
 - The beliefs and norms of a society
 - The application of ethical principles to moral issues

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	Correct! Ethics, the philosophical study of morality, is a comprehensive approach to the systematic exploration of what is morally right and wrong.
B	Incorrect—Value clarification is a process through which individuals come to understand the values they hold and the relative importance of each of these values and hence come to understand the various and shared perspectives they hold.
C	Incorrect—The beliefs and norms of a society influence ethical perspectives and are explored in the study of ethics.
D	Incorrect—Applying ethical principles to moral issues helps provide frameworks for ethical decision making and is a component of the study of ethics.

DIF: Cognitive level: Knowledge

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2. Which of the following is the focus of normative ethics?
- The analysis of morality without taking a moral position
 - The question of what is right or wrong
 - Explaining how moral attitudes and beliefs differ from person to person
 - Distinguishing between what is normal and what is not

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—This is a focus of descriptive ethics.
B	Correct! Normative ethics focuses on the reasons, principles, or arguments that guide decisions about what is right and wrong. Basic principles and virtues are identified to guide morality and provide coherent, systematic, and justifiable answers to moral questions.
C	Incorrect—A person’s differing moral attitudes and beliefs help to shape his or her personal values; and influence views about what is right or wrong.
D	Incorrect—People’s ideas of normal and abnormal could be based on values, but these distinctions are not necessarily ethical.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

3. Which of the following fields of ethics applies ethical theories and principles to actual moral problems?
- Philosophical ethics
 - Biomedical ethics
 - Nursing ethics
 - Applied ethics

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—Ethics in general is a philosophical study.
B	Incorrect—Biomedical ethics explores moral issues and ethical questions associated with health care.
C	Incorrect—Nursing ethics focuses on moral questions within all domains of nursing.
D	Correct! Applied ethics is a specific field of ethics where theories and principles are applied to actual moral problems to assist in guiding decision making.

DIF: Cognitive level: Knowledge

4. Which of the following exists when mutually exclusive alternatives can both be supported by strong moral reasons?
- Moral distress
 - An ethical dilemma
 - A value conflict
 - An ethical violation

ANS: B

	Feedback
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Ethical & Legal Issues in Canadian Nursing 4th Edition Test Bank

A	Incorrect—Moral distress results when a person is faced with ethical issues or conflicting values and cannot deal effectively with them or is obstructed from doing so.
B	Correct! An ethical dilemma arises when the best course of action is unclear and there are strong moral reasons supporting each opposing position.
C	Incorrect—A value conflict occurs when people encounter other individuals or groups whose value system are in conflict with their own.
D	Incorrect—An ethical violation occurs when actions and behaviours contradict what is clearly the right action or fail to meet an ethical standard or code of ethics.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

5. What is the result when a nurse believes that a course of action is correct, but is prevented (e.g., through a law or policy) from carrying out that action or influencing the decision, resulting in feelings of guilt?
- An ethical dilemma
 - Moral distress
 - Ethical reasoning
 - Moral irresponsibility

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—An ethical dilemma arises when the best course of action is unclear and there are strong moral reasons supporting each opposing position.
B	Correct! Moral distress results when a person is faced with ethical issues or conflicting values and cannot deal effectively with them.
C	Incorrect—Ethical reasoning is the process of ethical decision making, not the result of a situation.
D	Incorrect—Moral responsibility refers to the duty to act in accordance with the moral principles that guides groups or society. Moral irresponsibility would occur if a nurse disregarded professional or organizational ethical standards or codes of ethics.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

6. What is the correct term to describe a framework of principles and guidelines that helps to identify ethical issues and reconcile conflicts?
- Metaethics
 - Ethical theory
 - Ethical values
 - Descriptive ethics

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—Metaethics analyzes the meanings of concepts, such as <i>right</i> , <i>obligation</i> , <i>good</i> , and <i>virtue</i> , and attempts to distinguish between what is moral and what is not—for example, the difference between a moral rule and a social rule.

Ethical & Legal Issues in Canadian Nursing 4th Edition Test Bank

B	Correct! Ethical theory is the study of the nature and justification of general ethical principles that can be applied to moral problems.
C	Incorrect—Ethical values are ideals and may vary across individuals, groups, or populations; they do not resolve conflicts but help in understanding various perspectives on an issue.
D	Incorrect—Descriptive ethics encompasses explanations and factual descriptions of moral behaviour and beliefs; it does not identify ethical issues or resolve conflicts.

DIF: Cognitive level: Knowledge

7. Which of the following **best** describes the concept of equality for all Canadians?
- A belief
 - A value
 - A principle
 - A moral dilemma

ANS: B

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—A belief is individual and is something felt to be true; the concept of equality is not simply an individual belief.
B	Correct! Equality for all is a societal value; the majority of Canadians subscribe to this ideal. A value has significant meaning to an individual, group, or society.
C	Incorrect—Principles help to guide moral decisions; the concept of equality is based on the principle of justice.
D	Incorrect—A moral dilemma occurs when the right course of action is not clear.

DIF: Cognitive level: Application

8. A nurse's support of client autonomy is based on which of the following?
- An "a priori" principle
 - A personal value
 - A professional value
 - A legal requirement

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—Ethical principles are considered "prima facie"; that is, their application may be relative to another principle that may have more weight or priority in a given situation. They are not considered "a priori" or binding.
B	Incorrect—A nurse's support of client autonomy may be an example of a personal value, but not exclusively.
C	Correct! Professional values build and expand on personal values. The value of client autonomy is a professional (and possibly personal) value and is evident in codes of ethics and professional standards for nurses.
D	Incorrect—Some legal doctrines, such as informed consent, are based on the principle of autonomy, but generally, supporting client autonomy is not a legal requirement.

Ethical & Legal Issues in Canadian Nursing 4th Edition Test Bank

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

9. Which of the following theories may guide nurses to choose actions that will lead to the best consequences, outcomes, or results?
- Utilitarian
 - Deontological
 - Normative
 - Relative

ANS: A

	Feedback
A	Correct! Utilitarianism is a teleological theory in which the ethical choice is the one with the best consequences, outcomes, or results.
B	Incorrect—Deontological theories make explicit the duties and principles that should guide people’s actions; they do not focus on the consequences of actions.
C	Incorrect—Normative theories are intended to provide frameworks and rules to guide decisions about what is right or wrong, but they do not focus on the consequences of actions.
D	Incorrect—Relativism states that there are no moral absolutes and that the concept of morality varies across cultures and among individuals; it does not provide a guide to choosing the best actions.

DIF: Cognitive level: Knowledge

10. What is the main principle underlying a rule-based theory of utilitarianism?
- The theory is always deontological.
 - The theory considers individual acts.
 - The theory considers general patterns of behaviour.
 - The theory is the foundation of nursing ethics.

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—Deontological theory (which includes the belief that standards for moral behaviour exist independently of means or ends) includes both rule- and act-based theories but is not the main underlying principle.
B	Incorrect—Rule-based theories consider general patterns of behaviour, whereas act-based theories consider individual acts.
C	Correct! General patterns of behaviour are the foundation of rule-based theories. Rule-based theories consider general patterns of behaviour, whereas act-based theories consider individual acts. Both rule- and act-based theories are utilitarian (in which the best choice is the one with the best outcomes).
D	Incorrect—Such approaches as caring ethics and ethical principles, not rule-based theories, are the foundation of nursing ethics.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

11. Which of the following is the basis for ethical decision-making frameworks?
- Ethical reasoning
 - Ethical values
 - Ethical dilemmas

Ethical & Legal Issues in Canadian Nursing 4th Edition Test Bank

d. Ethical principles

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—Ethical reasoning is a <i>process</i> of ethical decision making using a framework.
B	Incorrect—Ethical values are beliefs held by an individual or a group and may evolve over time; they are not the basis for ethical decision-making frameworks.
C	Incorrect—Ethical dilemmas arise when the best choice of action is unclear and when strong moral reasons support each position; they are not the basis for ethical decision-making frameworks.
D	Correct! Ethical principles serve as rules to guide moral conduct and provide a framework for ethical decision making.

DIF: Cognitive level: Knowledge

12. What is the main difference between deontological and teleological theories?
- Teleological theory focuses on the use of principles to choose the correct actions.
 - Deontological theory focuses on ends or outcomes and consequences of decisions.
 - Deontological theory suggests that standards for moral behaviour are independent of the ends or outcomes of actions.
 - All teleological theories are rule based.

ANS: C

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—Teleological theory is focused on the end results or outcomes of actions.
B	Incorrect—Deontological theory is focused on acts and rules that support principles or duties, not on the ends or outcomes of decisions.
C	Correct! Deontological theory suggests that standards for moral behaviour are independent of the ends or outcomes of actions, whereas teleological theory focuses on the outcomes and consequences of actions.
D	Incorrect—Teleological theory is focused on the end results or outcomes of actions. Although rule utilitarianism, a teleological theory, considers the utility of general patterns of behaviour rather than that of specific actions.

DIF: Cognitive level: Comprehension

13. Which of the following ethical principles is the foundation of informed consent?
- Beneficence
 - Justice
 - Nonmaleficence
 - Autonomy

ANS: D

	Feedback
A	Incorrect—Beneficence holds that one must make a positive move to produce some good or benefit for another; it is not the foundation of informed consent.