

# Nursing Jurisprudence and Ethics for Texas Nurses Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. What should a nurse do if uncertain about patient care?**
  - A. Try to resolve the issue independently**
  - B. Consult institutional protocols or a supervisor**
  - C. Ignore the uncertainty and proceed**
  - D. Document the uncertainty and move on**
- 2. What is the significance of evidence-based practice in nursing?**
  - A. It focuses solely on anecdotal experiences**
  - B. It integrates clinical expertise with available research**
  - C. It prioritizes the opinions of senior staff over research**
  - D. It is optional and not required for effective care**
- 3. How often does the Texas Board of Nursing evaluate nursing practices?**
  - A. Monthly**
  - B. Continuously**
  - C. Annually**
  - D. Only during license renewals**
- 4. How do legal responsibilities relate to ethical duties for nurses?**
  - A. Legal responsibilities are more important than ethical duties**
  - B. Ethical duties establish a lower standard of care**
  - C. Legal responsibilities set minimum standards while ethical duties guide to higher standards**
  - D. Legal and ethical responsibilities are always the same**
- 5. What must a nurse do if they suspect a colleague is impaired?**
  - A. Ignore the issue and continue working**
  - B. Report the suspected impairment to a supervisor**
  - C. Confront the colleague directly**
  - D. Document the situation but take no further action**

- 6. What is the potential consequence for nurses involved in patient abandonment?**
- A. Extra training requirements**
  - B. Disciplinary actions by the Texas Board of Nursing**
  - C. A warning from the hospital administration**
  - D. Reassignment to another unit**
- 7. How does the Texas Nurse Practice Act affect nursing education programs?**
- A. It has no effect on education programs**
  - B. It sets standards for nursing education to ensure adequate preparation**
  - C. It allows for flexibility in program development**
  - D. It mandates specific curricula to be taught**
- 8. The BON rules, located in Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code, help implement and reflect**
- A. the process necessary to be promoted to higher positions in nursing in different practice settings**
  - B. the standards of nursing care developed by various nursing specialty and professional organizations**
  - C. the statutes passed by the legislature relating to nursing found in Texas Occupations Code, including the NPA**
  - D. the steps necessary to complete the NCLEX exam application**
- 9. A school district contracts with a registered nurse (RN) to teach the staff how to monitor a student's blood glucose. The RN then observes each perform this task correctly. The RN does not work for the school district and will not have any further contact with the staff. In this example, the RN is**
- A. acting outside of the RN's scope in teaching blood glucose monitoring to the staff**
  - B. engaging in RN delegation of nursing tasks to be performed by the staff who are responsible to report to the RN**
  - C. supervising the staff on a daily basis in performing blood glucose monitoring**
  - D. training the staff how to perform the task of monitoring blood glucose**

**10. What does the term "informed consent" mean in a healthcare setting?**

- A. A patient's agreement to undergo a medical procedure without knowing the risks**
- B. A patient's verbal approval of treatment without a written document**
- C. A patient's formal agreement to a medical procedure after understanding its risks, benefits, and alternatives**
- D. A patient's signature on any document provided by the healthcare team**

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## **Answers**

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- 1. B**
- 2. B**
- 3. B**
- 4. C**
- 5. B**
- 6. B**
- 7. B**
- 8. C**
- 9. D**
- 10. A**

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What should a nurse do if uncertain about patient care?

- A. Try to resolve the issue independently
- B. Consult institutional protocols or a supervisor**
- C. Ignore the uncertainty and proceed
- D. Document the uncertainty and move on

When a nurse encounters uncertainty in patient care, consulting institutional protocols or a supervisor is the most appropriate action. This approach ensures that the nurse adheres to established guidelines and receives support from those with more experience or authority in the situation. Institutional protocols often provide evidence-based guidance on how to handle various clinical scenarios, which can help the nurse make informed decisions that prioritize patient safety and quality of care. Engaging with a supervisor or more experienced colleagues allows for collaboration and can lead to improved patient outcomes. It demonstrates a commitment to professional practice and reinforces the importance of teamwork in healthcare settings. This option not only addresses the immediate uncertainty but also encourages ongoing learning and adherence to best practices. The other options present actions that could lead to negative outcomes. Trying to resolve the issue independently may lead to mistakes due to lack of knowledge or experience. Ignoring the uncertainty and proceeding can compromise patient safety, while merely documenting the uncertainty without taking action may leave unresolved issues that could affect patient care negatively.

## 2. What is the significance of evidence-based practice in nursing?

- A. It focuses solely on anecdotal experiences
- B. It integrates clinical expertise with available research**
- C. It prioritizes the opinions of senior staff over research
- D. It is optional and not required for effective care

The significance of evidence-based practice in nursing lies in its approach to integrating clinical expertise with the best available research evidence, along with patient values and preferences. This method enhances the quality of care by ensuring that clinical decisions are informed by the most current and relevant data. Evidence-based practice supports the use of research findings to guide clinical practice, promoting better patient outcomes and improving the overall effectiveness of nursing interventions. It encourages nurses to critically evaluate and apply research in a way that reflects the unique needs of their patients, fostering a more personalized and effective care environment. In contrast, anecdotal experiences, opinions of senior staff, or treating evidence-based practice as optional diminish the role of systematic research and the continuous improvement of care standards essential in nursing practice. Emphasizing research ensures that nursing care evolves with new findings, ultimately benefiting patient health and safety.

### **3. How often does the Texas Board of Nursing evaluate nursing practices?**

- A. Monthly**
- B. Continuously**
- C. Annually**
- D. Only during license renewals**

The Texas Board of Nursing evaluates nursing practices continuously as part of its responsibility to ensure that the nursing profession maintains high standards of care and safety for patients. This ongoing evaluation includes monitoring compliance with practices, responding to complaints, conducting investigations, and assessing nursing education programs. By maintaining a continuous oversight approach, the Board can swiftly address any emerging issues regarding nursing practices, adapt regulations to evolving healthcare challenges, and ensure that nurses provide safe and effective care throughout their practice. This dedication to continuous evaluation highlights the importance of accountability and quality in nursing, which ultimately protects public health.

### **4. How do legal responsibilities relate to ethical duties for nurses?**

- A. Legal responsibilities are more important than ethical duties**
- B. Ethical duties establish a lower standard of care**
- C. Legal responsibilities set minimum standards while ethical duties guide to higher standards**
- D. Legal and ethical responsibilities are always the same**

Legal responsibilities and ethical duties for nurses are deeply interconnected, but they serve different purposes within the scope of nursing practice. Legal responsibilities, established by laws and regulations, set the basic, minimum standards of care that nurses must adhere to in their practice. These laws are designed to ensure safety, prevent harm, and protect patients' rights. For instance, legal regulations may dictate that nurses must obtain consent before procedures or administer medications safely. On the other hand, ethical duties extend beyond the minimum legal requirements and guide nurses to strive for higher standards of care. Ethics in nursing emphasizes principles such as beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, and respect for autonomy, urging nurses to act in the best interest of their patients while also considering moral principles. This ethical framework encourages nurses to advocate for their patients, pursue excellence in care, and make decisions that align with the values and dignity of those they serve. Understanding this relationship is crucial for nurses, as it highlights the importance of practicing within legal boundaries while also aspiring to meet ethical standards that foster trust and integrity in the provider-patient relationship. Legal standards are critical for ensuring public safety, while ethical standards challenge nurses to provide compassionate and exemplary care that may surpass these legal minimums.

**5. What must a nurse do if they suspect a colleague is impaired?**

- A. Ignore the issue and continue working**
- B. Report the suspected impairment to a supervisor**
- C. Confront the colleague directly**
- D. Document the situation but take no further action**

When a nurse suspects that a colleague is impaired, the most appropriate action is to report the suspected impairment to a supervisor. This option aligns with the ethical and legal responsibilities that nurses hold, particularly regarding patient safety and professional accountability. Nurses have an obligation to ensure that all healthcare providers in their environment are functioning at a level that guarantees the safety and well-being of patients. Reporting to a supervisor is crucial because it initiates the appropriate protocols for assessing and addressing the suspected impairment, ultimately safeguarding patient care. Additionally, failing to take action, such as ignoring the issue, could put patients at risk and compromise the integrity of the nursing profession. Confronting the colleague directly might create an uncomfortable situation and could potentially escalate the issue without proper support. Documenting the situation without further action would also be inadequate, as it does not contribute to resolving the potential risk posed by the impaired colleague. Thus, reporting the situation ensures that the matter is handled appropriately by those in a position to intervene effectively.

**6. What is the potential consequence for nurses involved in patient abandonment?**

- A. Extra training requirements**
- B. Disciplinary actions by the Texas Board of Nursing**
- C. A warning from the hospital administration**
- D. Reassignment to another unit**

Patient abandonment occurs when a healthcare professional, including nurses, leaves a patient without providing for their medical care or without ensuring that care is transferred to another qualified individual. This situation can significantly compromise patient safety and well-being. In Texas, the Board of Nursing has strict regulations to ensure that nurses uphold their duty to patients. Engaging in patient abandonment can lead to serious consequences, as it is seen as a breach of the ethical and legal duty of care that nurses owe to their patients. Disciplinary actions by the Texas Board of Nursing can include sanctions such as suspension or revocation of a nursing license. These measures are in place to maintain professional standards and protect the public, highlighting the importance of continuity of care. While other options like extra training or warnings from hospital administration may occur in some circumstances, they do not address the severity of the situation regarding patient abandonment. Likewise, reassignment to another unit does not tackle the core issue of abandonment, which is a significant violation of nursing ethics and legal responsibilities. Therefore, the most appropriate and direct consequence for such an act is indeed disciplinary action by the Texas Board of Nursing.

**7. How does the Texas Nurse Practice Act affect nursing education programs?**

- A. It has no effect on education programs**
- B. It sets standards for nursing education to ensure adequate preparation**
- C. It allows for flexibility in program development**
- D. It mandates specific curricula to be taught**

The Texas Nurse Practice Act plays a crucial role in establishing standards for nursing education, ensuring that programs adequately prepare students for the demands of professional nursing practice. By setting these educational standards, the Act aims to ensure that all nursing graduates possess the essential knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for safe and effective patient care. This framework helps maintain the quality of nursing programs across the state and ultimately protects the public by ensuring that nurses are well-trained and equipped to meet the diverse needs of patients. The legislation also serves to provide a consistent foundation for nursing education, which helps maintain the integrity of the profession. While flexibility in program development is important for adapting to the evolving healthcare landscape, and curricula may have some variability, the overarching standards established by the Texas Nurse Practice Act are essential for ensuring uniformity and quality across nursing educational programs.

**8. The BON rules, located in Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code, help implement and reflect**

- A. the process necessary to be promoted to higher positions in nursing in different practice settings**
- B. the standards of nursing care developed by various nursing specialty and professional organizations**
- C. the statutes passed by the legislature relating to nursing found in Texas Occupations Code, including the NPA**
- D. the steps necessary to complete the NCLEX exam application**

The correct answer pertains to the rules established by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) found in Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code, which are meant to implement and reflect the statutes passed by the legislature regarding nursing professional practices. These rules ensure that nursing practices adhere to the legal and ethical standards set forth in the Texas Occupations Code, particularly the Nurse Practice Act (NPA). The BON is responsible for safeguarding the public by ensuring that nurses meet the necessary standards of competence and ethical conduct. This includes not only licensing nurses but also regulating their professional practice to ensure safety, accountability, and quality of care. The BON's rules delineate the legal framework for nursing practice, including licensure processes, scope of practice, disciplinary actions for violations, and other essential governance related to nursing in Texas. Understanding that the BON rules are tied to the legislation provides a crucial context for nurses and helps clarify their responsibilities and expectations in their practice. It ensures they operate within a framework that promotes safe, effective, and ethical nursing care.

9. A school district contracts with a registered nurse (RN) to teach the staff how to monitor a student's blood glucose. The RN then observes each perform this task correctly. The RN does not work for the school district and will not have any further contact with the staff. In this example, the RN is
- A. acting outside of the RN's scope in teaching blood glucose monitoring to the staff
  - B. engaging in RN delegation of nursing tasks to be performed by the staff who are responsible to report to the RN
  - C. supervising the staff on a daily basis in performing blood glucose monitoring
  - D. training the staff how to perform the task of monitoring blood glucose**

In this scenario, the registered nurse (RN) is engaged in a structured educational role rather than a traditional nursing role where continuous supervision or ongoing delegation would apply. The correct answer highlights that the RN is not acting outside their professional scope; in fact, this situation exemplifies appropriate actions. Training staff in specific medical tasks, such as monitoring blood glucose, can be within the scope of an RN's practice as it contributes to the education and empowerment of non-nursing personnel. The RN's function here does not entail delegation since delegation involves a process where a nurse transfers authority for the performance of a specific task while retaining accountability—an ongoing supervisory relationship is necessary for delegation, which does not exist in this context. Moreover, the absence of further contact indicates that the RN is not supervising staff on a daily basis; their role is strictly educational and short-term in nature. Thus, the RN is appropriately fulfilling their duties by providing training, making the correct response clear.

**10. What does the term "informed consent" mean in a healthcare setting?**

- A. A patient's agreement to undergo a medical procedure without knowing the risks**
- B. A patient's verbal approval of treatment without a written document**
- C. A patient's formal agreement to a medical procedure after understanding its risks, benefits, and alternatives**
- D. A patient's signature on any document provided by the healthcare team**

Informed consent in a healthcare setting refers to a patient's formal agreement to undergo a medical procedure after they have been adequately informed about the specific risks, benefits, and alternatives associated with that procedure. This process ensures that the patient understands what they are consenting to, allowing them to make a knowledgeable decision regarding their healthcare. The concept emphasizes that consent should not only be an agreement, but an informed one, ensuring that patients are empowered and can actively participate in their own care decisions. It is a fundamental ethical and legal requirement in healthcare, safeguarding patient autonomy and rights. For instance, the notion of informed consent underscores the importance of communication between healthcare providers and patients—providers are required to engage in a thorough discussion, which includes addressing any questions or concerns that the patient may have. This transforms the consent process from a mere formality into a meaningful exchange that affects patient outcomes.