

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

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Which ethical principle requires nurses to keep their knowledge and skills current?**
 - A. Justice**
 - B. Nonmaleficence**
 - C. Fidelity**
 - D. Autonomy**
- 2. Which principle is crucial for maintaining patient trust?**
 - A. Competence**
 - B. Accountability**
 - C. Transparency**
 - D. All of the above**
- 3. According to BON Position Statement 15.24 Engaging in Reinsertion of Permanently Placed Feeding Tubes, under which condition would it be within the scope of practice for a nurse to replace a gastrostomy tube?**
 - A. The tube has been in place for 8-12 weeks, the facility policy allows replacement of a tube with a specific physician's order, and the nurse has not completed the required skills check-off.**
 - B. The tube has been in place for 8-12 weeks, the nurse has a physician's order to replace the tube, and the nurse has completed specific competency training to safely replace the tube.**
 - C. The tube has been in place for 4-6 weeks and the nurse observed a supervisor completed the procedure.**
 - D. The tube has been in place 4-6 weeks and the nurse has been determined to be competent in reinserting permanently placed tubes that have an established fistulous tract.**
- 4. While a LVN has a "directed" scope of practice, this is NOT true for a RN. This means that the RN**
 - A. has full accountability for the LVN**
 - B. is able to engage in making medical diagnoses if signed off by a physician and performed under the physician's delegation**
 - C. is permitted to practice nursing independently within the RN's scope of practice**
 - D. must be present in all settings to supervise the LVN's care**

- 5. What is a key element of patient-centered care?**
- A. Focusing solely on clinical guidelines**
 - B. Respecting patient preferences, needs, and values**
 - C. Limiting patient input in their care**
 - D. Emphasizing the opinions of family members above the patient**
- 6. Why is a nursing license essential in Texas?**
- A. It allows nurses to earn higher salaries**
 - B. It guarantees job placement**
 - C. It signifies compliance with educational and ethical standards**
 - D. It permits nurses to own healthcare facilities**
- 7. What is the primary ethical principle that should guide a nurse's decision-making in complex clinical situations?**
- A. Compassion**
 - B. Beneficence**
 - C. Professionalism**
 - D. Teamwork**
- 8. What should be the foundation for a nurse's ethical decision-making?**
- A. Past experiences**
 - B. Moral values and professional integrity**
 - C. Advice from coworkers**
 - D. Hospital policy manuals**
- 9. What documentation is necessary when a nurse administers a medication?**
- A. Only the medication name and dosage**
 - B. The medication name, dosage, route, time, and patient response**
 - C. Medications do not require any documentation**
 - D. Just the medication and the nurse's signature**

10. Which Texas statute governs the delegation of nursing tasks?

- A. Texas Health and Safety Code § 123.456**
- B. Texas Family Code § 101.001**
- C. Texas Occupations Code § 301.353**
- D. Texas Education Code § 812.789**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which ethical principle requires nurses to keep their knowledge and skills current?

- A. Justice**
- B. Nonmaleficence**
- C. Fidelity**
- D. Autonomy**

The ethical principle that requires nurses to keep their knowledge and skills current is fidelity. Fidelity pertains to the commitment healthcare professionals have to uphold their duties and responsibilities to their patients, which includes a promise to deliver competent and up-to-date care. By staying current with knowledge and skills, nurses demonstrate their dedication to patient safety and effective treatment, ensuring that they fulfill their obligation to provide the highest standard of care. This commitment is not only about maintaining licensure or certification but also about continuous learning and adapting to new technologies, treatments, or evidence-based practices that directly impact patient outcomes. When nurses invest in their professional development, they honor their ethical obligation to provide quality care, which is ultimately an act of fidelity to their patients. In contrast, other ethical principles, such as justice, focus on fairness and equality in patient care; nonmaleficence emphasizes the duty to do no harm; and autonomy supports a patient's right to make their own choices regarding their healthcare. While these principles are crucial in nursing practice, they do not specifically address the continuous updating of professional knowledge and skills like fidelity does.

2. Which principle is crucial for maintaining patient trust?

- A. Competence**
- B. Accountability**
- C. Transparency**
- D. All of the above**

Maintaining patient trust is fundamental in nursing practice, and all the principles of competence, accountability, and transparency collectively contribute to fostering that trust. Each of these principles plays a unique role in ensuring that patients feel secure in the care they receive. Competence refers to the nurse's ability to deliver high-quality, effective care based on current knowledge, skills, and practices. When patients are confident that their nurse is well-trained and capable, it builds trust in the healthcare relationship. Accountability involves taking responsibility for one's actions and decisions in the nursing practice. When nurses are accountable, they demonstrate reliability and integrity, which reassures patients that their wellbeing is a priority. This assurance strengthens the trust between the patient and the nurse. Transparency means being open and clear about the care process, including discussing treatment options, potential risks, and outcomes with patients. This openness invites collaboration and encourages patients to ask questions and express concerns, further enhancing their trust in the care provided. By integrating competence, accountability, and transparency into nursing practice, nurses create an environment where patients feel valued and understood, establishing and maintaining a strong foundation of trust in their healthcare experience. Therefore, recognizing that all these principles work synergistically is crucial for effective nursing and patient-centered care.

3. According to BON Position Statement 15.24 Engaging in Reinsertion of Permanently Placed Feeding Tubes, under which condition would it be within the scope of practice for a nurse to replace a gastrostomy tube?

- A. The tube has been in place for 8-12 weeks, the facility policy allows replacement of a tube with a specific physician's order, and the nurse has not completed the required skills check-off.**
- B. The tube has been in place for 8-12 weeks, the nurse has a physician's order to replace the tube, and the nurse has completed specific competency training to safely replace the tube.**
- C. The tube has been in place for 4-6 weeks and the nurse observed a supervisor completed the procedure.**
- D. The tube has been in place 4-6 weeks and the nurse has been determined to be competent in reinserting permanently placed tubes that have an established fistulous tract.**

According to BON Position Statement 15.24, a nurse can replace a gastrostomy tube if it has been in place for 8-12 weeks, the facility policy allows replacement with a specific physician's order, and the nurse has not completed the required skills check-off. This is because the nurse has not yet gained the necessary competency to safely replace the tube. Choice B is incorrect because the nurse must complete competency training even if there is a physician's order. Choice C is incorrect because the nurse should personally complete the procedure, not just observe a supervisor. Choice D is incorrect because a nurse must have established competency in replacing permanently placed tubes, not just have a single competence evaluation.

4. While a LVN has a "directed" scope of practice, this is NOT true for a RN. This means that the RN
- A. has full accountability for the LVN
 - B. is able to engage in making medical diagnoses if signed off by a physician and performed under the physician's delegation
 - C. is permitted to practice nursing independently within the RN's scope of practice**
 - D. must be present in all settings to supervise the LVN's care

The assertion that the RN is able to practice independently within their scope of practice accurately reflects the distinctions between the roles of RNs and LVNs. Registered Nurses operate with a broader scope that includes more complex clinical judgments and decision-making processes. This autonomy enables RNs to assess, make nursing diagnoses, plan patient care, implement interventions, and evaluate outcomes without needing direct supervision from a physician or a more senior nurse. This autonomy is pivotal in nursing practice because it allows RNs to respond to patient needs and conditions based on their professional judgment and established protocols. While RNs may collaborate with physicians and other healthcare professionals, their scope does not require supervision in the same way that an LVN's does, which is often more focused and directed under the guidance of an RN or physician. The other choices imply varying levels of oversight and responsibilities that do not accurately represent the independent nature of RN practice. Therefore, the emphasis on RNs practicing within their scope independently aligns with the legal and educational framework governing nursing in Texas, highlighting their capacity to handle a wider range of nursing responsibilities without direct supervision.

5. What is a key element of patient-centered care?
- A. Focusing solely on clinical guidelines
 - B. Respecting patient preferences, needs, and values**
 - C. Limiting patient input in their care
 - D. Emphasizing the opinions of family members above the patient

A key element of patient-centered care is that it emphasizes respecting patient preferences, needs, and values. This approach recognizes that each patient is unique and that their individual experiences, beliefs, and desires should be considered in the planning and delivery of care. Patient-centered care aims to engage patients in their own health care decisions, ensuring that they are active participants rather than passive recipients. Incorporating a patient's preferences and values not only enhances the therapeutic relationship between healthcare providers and patients but also leads to improved satisfaction with care, better adherence to treatment plans, and ultimately improved health outcomes. By prioritizing what matters most to the patient, healthcare providers can tailor interventions that align with the patient's lifestyle, goals, and aspirations, making the care more effective and meaningful. The other options suggest approaches that do not align with the principles of patient-centered care. Focusing only on clinical guidelines overlooks the importance of individualized care, limiting input from patients dismisses their autonomy and can lead to dissatisfaction, while prioritizing family opinions over the patient's can undermine the patient's voice in their own care management.

6. Why is a nursing license essential in Texas?

- A. It allows nurses to earn higher salaries**
- B. It guarantees job placement**
- C. It signifies compliance with educational and ethical standards**
- D. It permits nurses to own healthcare facilities**

A nursing license in Texas is essential because it signifies compliance with both educational and ethical standards established by the Texas Board of Nursing. This credential demonstrates that the nurse has completed the required education, passed licensure examinations, and adheres to the regulations that govern nursing practice within the state. By holding a valid nursing license, the nurse assures patients, employers, and the public that they possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and mental fitness to provide safe and effective care. While earning higher salaries and job placement can be influenced by having a nursing license, these factors are not guaranteed solely by licensure. Additionally, a nursing license does not grant the authority to own healthcare facilities, as this requires further qualifications and adherence to different regulatory standards. Therefore, the core reason for the necessity of a nursing license lies in its role in ensuring safe, competent, and ethical nursing practice in Texas.

7. What is the primary ethical principle that should guide a nurse's decision-making in complex clinical situations?

- A. Compassion**
- B. Beneficence**
- C. Professionalism**
- D. Teamwork**

Beneficence is the primary ethical principle that guides nurses in complex clinical situations. This principle emphasizes the obligation to act for the benefit of the patient, promoting their well-being and preventing harm. In clinical practice, nurses often face challenging decisions where they must weigh the potential benefits and risks of various interventions. Beneficence urges nurses to prioritize actions that improve patient outcomes, considering both their physical and emotional needs. While compassion, professionalism, and teamwork are all important aspects of nursing practice, they serve to support and enhance the application of beneficence. Compassion fosters empathy and understanding, professionalism establishes the nurse's accountability and ethical responsibilities, and teamwork encourages collaborative efforts in providing patient care. However, in terms of ethical decision-making, beneficence takes precedence, as it directly aligns with the nurse's duty to ensure that their actions serve the best interest of the patient.

8. What should be the foundation for a nurse's ethical decision-making?

- A. Past experiences**
- B. Moral values and professional integrity**
- C. Advice from coworkers**
- D. Hospital policy manuals**

A nurse's ethical decision-making should be primarily grounded in moral values and professional integrity. These principles serve as guiding forces that allow nurses to navigate complex clinical situations and dilemmas they may encounter. In the nursing profession, ethical decision-making is crucial as it impacts patient care, the nurse's relationship with patients, their families, and the interdisciplinary team. Moral values reflect the nurse's beliefs about what is right or wrong, guiding interaction and care delivery. Having a solid foundation in professional integrity ensures that nurses adhere to ethical standards that foster trust, safety, and professionalism in health care. This approach encourages nurses to advocate for patients, prioritize their well-being, and maintain ethical practices in every decision they make. While past experiences, advice from coworkers, and hospital policy manuals can supplement the decision-making process, they do not serve as the primary foundation. Past experiences may provide insight but can be subjective and potentially biased. Advice from coworkers can offer support and varying perspectives, but it does not replace the nurse's own ethical framework. Hospital policy manuals serve as important resources, but they must align with the nurse's moral values to be effectively applied in practice. Thus, moral values and professional integrity remain central to guiding ethical nursing decisions.

9. What documentation is necessary when a nurse administers a medication?

- A. Only the medication name and dosage**
- B. The medication name, dosage, route, time, and patient response**
- C. Medications do not require any documentation**
- D. Just the medication and the nurse's signature**

The necessity for comprehensive documentation when a nurse administers medication stems from a commitment to patient safety, legal compliance, and professional accountability. It is essential to include the medication name, dosage, route of administration, time it was given, and the patient's response to the medication in the documentation. Each of these elements plays a critical role in ensuring proper medication management and facilitating effective communication among healthcare team members. Including the medication name and dosage confirms what was actually administered, while the route indicates how the medication was given, which can impact its effectiveness. Documenting the time of administration is crucial for maintaining accurate treatment schedules and monitoring medication effects, as well as for compliance with legal and regulatory standards. Lastly, noting the patient's response allows for the evaluation of the drug's efficacy and any potential side effects or reactions, which is vital for ongoing patient care and assessment. Inadequate documentation, such as including only limited information or failing to document at all, can lead to misunderstandings, errors in care, and potential legal ramifications. Therefore, a thorough and precise documentation process is not merely best practice; it's a critical component of nursing responsibilities.

10. Which Texas statute governs the delegation of nursing tasks?

- A. Texas Health and Safety Code § 123.456**
- B. Texas Family Code § 101.001**
- C. Texas Occupations Code § 301.353**
- D. Texas Education Code § 812.789**

The correct answer relates to Texas Occupations Code § 301.353, which specifically addresses the delegation of nursing tasks. This statute outlines the legal framework within which registered nurses (RNs) and licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) can delegate certain nursing responsibilities to other individuals, including unlicensed assistive personnel, while ensuring that patient care standards and safety are maintained. This statute defines the scope of delegation, emphasizes the responsibilities that must remain with the nurse, and establishes criteria under which delegation is appropriate, which ensures that patients receive safe and competent care. It also helps to clarify the nurse's accountability in the delegation process, stressing the need for appropriate supervision and follow-up. The other statutes mentioned do not pertain to nursing practice or delegation. The Health and Safety Code primarily deals with public health matters, the Family Code addresses family law, and the Education Code focuses on education policy, none of which specifically relate to the duties and delegation practices relevant to nursing. Therefore, Texas Occupations Code § 301.353 is the critical statute that governs how nursing tasks can be delegated in Texas.