

Chapter 02: The Ethics and Legal Considerations of Cancer Management

Washington & Leaver: Principles and Practice of Radiation Therapy, 4th Edition

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What is the study of ethical issues in medicine?
 - a. Biometrics
 - b. Bioethics
 - c. Macro ethics
 - d. Micro ethics

ANS: B

Bioethics is defined as the application of ethics to medicine, nursing, and health care.

Biometrics is a branch of biology that studies biological phenomena and observations by means of statistical analysis. Micro ethics consider individuals and internal relations of the specific situations, whereas macro ethics applies to the collective social responsibility and to societal decisions.

REF: p. 25

2. Which of the following is *not* a sanctionable offence by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)?
 - a. Failure to participate in professional activities, share knowledge with colleagues, and investigate new aspects of professional practice
 - b. Impersonation of a candidate for the examination
 - c. Failure to perform radiation therapy procedures with reasonable skill and safety
 - d. Knowingly assisting, aiding, or allowing a person without a current certificate of registration with the ARRT to engage in the practice of radiologic technology, in a jurisdiction that requires such registration

ANS: A

Although participation in professional activities, sharing knowledge, and researching new aspects of professional practice result in professional growth and other benefits, failure to be involved in any of these activities is not a sanctionable offense by the ARRT.

REF: pp. 23-24

3. Which of the following is a theory of ethics developed by Immanuel Kant?
 - a. Virtue ethics
 - b. Communitarianism
 - c. Contextual ethics
 - d. Deontology

ANS: D

In its purest form, deontology was developed by Immanuel Kant.

REF: p. 26

4. Who is most closely associated with the stages of grief?
 - a. Nel Noddings

- b. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross
- c. John Mill
- d. Immanuel Kant

ANS: B

In 1969, in her book titled *On Death and Dying*, Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross described several stages a patient passes through while dealing with grief.

REF: p. 31

5. Which group is responsible for producing the rules of ethics for radiation therapists?
- a. American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)
 - b. American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT)
 - c. American Medical Association (AMA)
 - d. American Hospital Association (AHA)

ANS: A

The rules of ethics are part of the ARRT's standards of ethics document. The ASRT has a code of ethics for radiation therapists but no rules of ethics. The AMA and AHA do not have any documents specific to radiation therapists.

REF: p. 21

6. Utilitarianism is an example of which broad group of ethical theories?
- a. Teleology
 - b. Deontology
 - c. Virtue ethics

ANS: A

Utilitarianism is one of the two major divisions of teleology (with egoism).

REF: pp. 26-27

7. Jeremy Bentham and John Mill are most closely associated with which ethical theory?
- a. Communitarianism
 - b. Egoism
 - c. Natural law ethics
 - d. Utilitarianism

ANS: D

Bentham and Mill are typically held to be the founders of utilitarianism as an ethical theory.

REF: pp. 26-27

8. What occurs when the obvious solution to a problem is prohibited by institutional constraints?
- a. Ethical dilemma
 - b. Ethical dilemma of justice
 - c. Ethical distress
 - d. Locus of authority

ANS: C

Ethical distress occurs when a problem has an obvious solution, but institutional constraints prohibit the application of the solution.

REF: pp. 26-27

9. Allocation of scarce resources is an example of which ethical category?
- Ethical dilemma
 - Ethical dilemma of justice
 - Ethical distress
 - Locus of authority

ANS: B

Ethical dilemmas of justice are problems associated with the distribution of benefits and burdens, such as the allocation of scarce resources.

REF: p. 27

10. Which patient/provider relationship model is best represented by the informed consent process?
- Engineering
 - Priestly
 - Collegial
 - Contractual
 - Covenant

ANS: D

The contractual model is based on a business relationship model and includes a “contract,” such as the informed consent form.

REF: p. 27

11. Which patient/provider relationship model devalues autonomy?
- Engineering
 - Priestly
 - Collegial
 - Contractual
 - Covenant

ANS: B

The priestly model assumes that the caregiver knows what is best for the patient and does not allow for the patient to provide input into the decision-making process.

REF: p. 27

12. Which of the following is *not* a source from which values are derived?
- Money
 - Experience
 - Religion
 - Science

ANS: A

Although money may factor into many aspects of decisions, values are not derived from money. Values are instead the result of culture, experience, religion, and science.

REF: pp. 27-28

13. Who is most closely associated with clarification of values?
- Immanuel Kant
 - Louis Rath
 - Elisabeth Kübler-Ross
 - John Mill

ANS: B

In 1966, Louis Rath developed a values clarification exercise. The exercise contained a series of questions that helped the participants describe their values.

REF: p. 27

14. Which two ethical principles may clash when dealing with consent?
- Beneficence
 - Nonmaleficence
 - Autonomy
 - Confidentiality
- I and III
 - I and IV
 - II and III
 - II and IV

ANS: A

The patient may choose (autonomy) a course of action that is considered suboptimal and, therefore, contrary to the caregiver's obligation to do good (beneficence).

REF: p. 25

15. Which of the following is *not* a recognized exception to patient confidentiality?
- Genetic disease
 - Abuse
 - Communicable disease
 - Automobile accident

ANS: A

Abuse, communicable disease, and automobile accidents are all acceptable exceptions to patient confidentiality. Genetic disease is not.

REF: p. 25|pp. 30-31

16. What legal document allows the competent adult to provide direction to health care providers regarding their choices under certain circumstances, should the individual no longer be able to make those decisions?
- Scope of practice
 - Informed consent
 - Durable power of attorney
 - Living will

ANS: D

The living will is a legal document created by the patient while competent that outlines what actions should or should not be taken under certain circumstances if he or she is not competent at the time the decision needs to be made. Typically, these decisions are related to the use of artificial life-sustaining measures, such as ventilators and feeding tubes.

REF: p. 34

17. What legal document designates an individual as decision maker for a patient who is no longer capable of making decisions?
- a. Scope of practice
 - b. Informed consent
 - c. Durable power of attorney
 - d. Living will

ANS: C

Generally speaking, the durable power of attorney for health care is a designee of the patient who accepts or refuses treatment on the patient's behalf.

REF: p. 34

18. Which law is best described as personal injury law?
- a. Civil law
 - b. Criminal law
 - c. Constitutional law
 - d. Tort law

ANS: D

A tort is considered a wrongful act against a person or a person's property. Tort law is also known as personal injury law.

REF: p. 35

19. A civil lawsuit is punishable by which of the following?
- a. Loss of property
 - b. Loss of liberty
 - c. Loss of life
 - d. All of the above

ANS: A

Violations of civil law, also known as torts or breach of contract, are punishable by loss of property only.

REF: p. 35

20. Which doctrine contends that individuals are responsible for their own negligent conduct?
- a. Doctrine of foreseeability
 - b. Doctrine of personal liability
 - c. Doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur*
 - d. Doctrine of *respondeat superior*

ANS: B

Personal accountability is a fundamental rule of law and states that each person is responsible for his or her own negligent actions.

REF: p. 36

21. A company being punished for the actions of one of its employees is an example of which doctrine?
- a. Doctrine of foreseeability
 - b. Doctrine of personal liability
 - c. Doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur*
 - d. Doctrine of *respondeat superior*

ANS: D

The doctrine of *respondeat superior* holds the employer liable for the negligence of employees carrying out duties for the employer.

REF: p. 36

22. Risk management programs may include all *except* which of the following?
- a. Malpractice insurance
 - b. Employee safety
 - c. Security
 - d. Fire safety

ANS: A

Risk management programs typically focus on the identification, analysis, and evaluation of risks and the selection of the most advantageous method for treating the risks prior to an incident. Malpractice insurance is only used after an incident occurs and is not considered part of the risk management program.

REF: pp. 36-37

23. According to the radiation therapist's practice standards, a radiation therapist should meet certain levels of which of the following?
- a. Clinical performance
 - b. Quality performance
 - c. Professional performance
 - d. All of the above

ANS: D

The radiation therapist's practice standards provide detailed information regarding expectations for clinical, quality, and professional performance.

REF: pp. 32-33

24. Which of the following ethical principles relates to faithfulness or loyalty?
- a. Beneficence
 - b. Maleficence
 - c. Fidelity
 - d. Veracity

ANS: C

Fidelity or role fidelity is the principle related to faithfulness or loyalty to your role and responsibilities. Beneficence is related to doing good. Maleficence is related to preventing harm. Veracity is related to being truthful.

REF: pp. 25-26

25. The threat of touching or causing harm to an individual is known as which of the following?
- a. Assault
 - b. Battery
 - c. Libel
 - d. Slander

ANS: A

Assault is the threat of touching in an injurious way. Battery is the actual act of harm. Libel is written defamation of character. Slander is the oral defamation of character.

REF: pp. 35-36