

# MED 118 Medical Law and Ethics

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Prerequisites: Enrollment in Medical Assisting Diploma or AAS degree

Corequisites: CIS 110, ENG 111

This course covers legal relationships of physicians and patients, contractual agreements, professional liability, malpractice, medical practice acts, informed consent, and bioethical issues. Emphasis is placed on legal terms, professional attitudes, and the principles and basic concepts of ethics and laws involved in providing medical services. Upon completion, students should be able to meet the legal and ethical responsibilities of a multi-skilled health professional.

Course Hours per Week: Class, 2; Lab, 0; Semester Hours Credit, 2.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able demonstrate an understanding of law and ethics and how these topics are related to the practice of medicine and identify legal and ethical situations faced as medical office professionals:

- I. Concepts of Effective Communication
  - A. Identify the role of the medical assistant as a patient navigator.
  - B. Identify subjective and objective information.
  - C. Identify the basic concepts/theories of Kubler-Ross.
  
- II. Legal Implications
  - A. Identify components of the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA).
  - B. Identify the standards outlined in The Patient Care Partnership.
  - C. Identify criminal and civil law as they apply to the practicing medical assistant.
  - D. Identify the purpose of medical malpractice insurance.
  - E. Identify legal and illegal applicant interview questions.
  - F. Define:
    1. negligence
    2. malpractice.
    3. statute of limitations
    4. Good Samaritan Act(s)
    5. Uniform Anatomical Gift Act
    6. living will/advanced directives
    7. medical durable power of attorney
    8. Patient Self Determination Act (PSDA)
    9. risk management
  - G. Identify:
    1. Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act
    2. Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA)
    3. Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA)
  - H. Identify compliance with public health statutes:
    1. communicable diseases
    2. abuse, neglect, and exploitation
    3. wounds of violence
  - I. Identify the following medical legal terms:
    1. informed consent

2. implied consent
  3. expressed consent.
  4. patient incompetence
  5. emancipated minor.
  6. mature minor
  7. subpoena duces tecum
  8. respondent superior
  9. res ipsa loquitur
  10. locum tenens
  11. defendant-plaintiff
  12. deposition
  13. arbitration-mediation
- J. Apply HIPAA rules in regard to privacy and release of information.
  - K. Complete compliance reporting based on public health statutes.
  - L. Report an illegal activity following the protocol established by the healthcare setting.

### III. Ethical and Professional Considerations

- A. Define ethics and morals.
- B. Identify personal and professional ethics.
- C. Identify potential effects of personal morals on professional performance.
- D. Demonstrate professional responses to ethical issues.
- E. Demonstrate empathy for patients' concerns.
- F. Recognize personal boundaries.
- G. Demonstrate self-awareness.

## **OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:**

- I. Medical Law and Ethics
  - A. Importance in the ambulatory healthcare settings
  - B. Codes of Ethics
  - C. Confidentiality
- II. Medical Practice Management
  - A. Group practices
  - B. Managed Care
  - C. Liabilities
  - D. Licensures, certifications, and registrations.
- III. Liability and Duties
  - A. Types of law- state and federal
  - B. Controlled substances
  - C. Contracts
  - D. Statute of Limitations
  - E. Consents
- IV. Workplace Issues
  - A. Medical records
  - B. Employment practices
  - C. Legal implications
- V. Bioethical Issues
  - A. Genetic Testing

B. Life, Death, and Dying and legal documents.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:**

Legal and Ethical Issues for Health Professions, Jaime Nguyen, 4th edition, Elsevier, ISBN 9780323496414