

Module 7
Analysis of Ethical Dilemmas
Chapter 2 and 13
(.2 CEUs)

Learner Outcomes

Upon completion of this section, the participant will be able to:

- a. Define ethics, morals and values
- b. Describe different approaches to the analysis of ethical dilemmas and conflicts
- c. Analyze ethical dilemmas

Learner Assessment Tool

Please circle the correct answer

1. With regard to morals, values, and ethics:
 - a. Values are widely agreed upon social obligations
 - b. Morals are personally held beliefs
 - c. Ethics are the generally accepted “oughts” that are so widely agreed upon that they are upheld even across varying cultures
 - d. Both B and C are correct
2. Ethical dilemmas:
 - a. Occur daily, and include those quickly made decisions that occur almost automatically as we determine the “right” thing to do
 - b. Are said to occur whenever we must pause to reflect on what is “right,” as we balance beneficence with utilitarian concerns, for example
 - c. Are relatively rare and occur when two equally important moral obligations are in conflict. Ethical conflicts are more common events
 - d. Are resolved by considering only the factors of beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and justice
3. Which is not one of the recommended steps in analyzing ethical dilemmas and conflicts?
 - a. Collecting and analyzing information
 - b. Doing the “gut check”
 - c. Identifying the time frame for the decisions.
 - d. Deliberating using one or more approaches to ethical decision making
4. The utilitarian approach to ethical decision making:
 - a. Involves considering which course of action provides the greatest benefits
 - b. Asks which course of action is the easiest to implement
 - c. Is synonymous with the legalist approach and requires practical examination of what is legally permitted
 - d. Uses unchanging moral precepts as the useful guide to decision making

5. Which is not a true statement?
 - a. "Autonomy" refers to the patient's right to make his or her own decisions
 - b. "Beneficence" refers to the obligation of a health-care professional to act to the benefit of the patient
 - c. "Non-maleficence," which is synonymous with "non-malefeasance," means to avoid misbehavior
 - d. The concept of patient justice involves making decisions that respect the inherently equal worth of all humans

6. In the sample case analysis in this article
 - a. The essence of the dilemma is how to fairly allocate scarce resources, ensuring that patient need is the basis of the resolution
 - b. The essence of the dilemma is non-maleficence. The audiologist must first and foremost ensure that neither patient is harmed, which is in jeopardy
 - c. The inadequate preparation of the student, and the preceptor's responsibility to only accept students into her practice when they can assume autonomous patient care, is the essence of the dilemma
 - d. The requirement that professionals put their own needs secondary to the patient's, including by working uncompensated overtime if required, is the essence of the dilemma

7. In the scenario on "Confidentiality Limits" (page 176), the elderly woman's daughter requests that she be included in decisions on her mother's hearing aids. The underlying conflict in this scenario is which of these?
 - a. Respecting patient autonomy and confidentiality conflicts with the desire to ensure that the patient's welfare is protected
 - b. Concern that earning a justifiable profit will cause the clinician to be seen as profiting at the expense of a vulnerable patient if disclosure is not made
 - c. Honoring the patient's living will means that patient care will be sub-optimal
 - d. All of the above are features of this situation's resolution

8. In the scenario "Mom's preference" which is the issue?
 - a. Ability of the parent to make the decision for the teen ager
 - b. Right of the parent to disclose information about a minor even when the minor requests confidentiality
 - c. Right of the parent to determine who provides professional services for his or her child
 - d. Concerns about potential child abuse are juxtaposed with the parent's right to be a firm disciplinarian

9. The "Best Practice" scenario has an element beyond sub-optimal clinical care. It is which of these:
 - a. Beneficence
 - b. Non-maleficence
 - c. Respect
 - d. Confidentiality

10. In the scenario "Who Decides", which course of action should the audiologist follow?
 - a. Respect the informed opinion of the educator
 - b. Respect the parent's right to make the decision
 - c. Recognize that genetic counseling is not within the scope of practice of an audiologist
 - d. Fully disclose the cost ramifications of alternatives provided to the child's mother

11. The scenario "A Big Shot in the Clinic" illustrates which of these concepts
- a. That person(s) in the public eye cannot always be protected from the media, and the audiologist has limited responsibility for inadvertent information disclosure
 - b. If the patient wishes that his or her disability be made public, then the audiologist may either participate in that disclosure or refrain from doing so if it would create the appearance that he or she has violated the Code of Ethics
 - c. Equal quality care must be afforded to patients, regardless of their status.
 - d. Gossip is an unacceptable breach of confidentiality, and must be handled even when the situation is uncomfortable