



Target Audience: Nursing

Ethics for Professionals 104

As health care professionals you recognize your moral and legal responsibility to interact with patients and their families, peers, employers, government agencies and third party payors with a firm ethical stance. A part of every health provider's education is ethical awareness and the legal and moral correlates that go along with it. It is important to continually review and reflect on all the decisions that are made every day in clinical practice that, at their core, are ethical decisions.

This 5 module program covers the "soup to nuts" of professional ethics using real life scenarios and problem solving to introduce, explain and cause reflection on many aspects of clinical care. Each module is self-contained, covering a different aspect of professional ethics.

104. Why Honor Confidentiality?

- a. Ethical Dimensions of the Professional-Patient Relationship
- b. Honoring Confidentiality
- c. The Six-Step Process in Confidentiality Situations
- d. The Six-Step Process in Confidentiality Situations (continued)
- e. Patient Privacy: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
- f. Communication and Information Sharing
- g. The Six-Step Process in Communication
- h. The Six Step Process (continued)
- i. Communication Standards, Technologies, and Tools

Learning Objectives:

- Define the terms confidential information and confidentiality.
- Identify the relationship of a patient's legal right to privacy with his reasonable expectations regarding confidential information.
- Describe how the telling and keeping of secrets is relevant to understanding the importance of confidentiality.
- Discuss the ethical norms involved in keeping and breaking professional confidences.
- Name five general legal exceptions to the professional standard of practice that confidences should not be broken.
- Describe some practical options that a professional can take when faced with the possibility of breaking a confidence.
- Discuss some important aspects of documentation that affect confidentiality.

- Compare ethical issues of confidentiality traditionally conceived with those that have arisen because of computerized medical records and patient care information systems.
- Describe the key ethical strengths and challenges of the recent U.S. federal regulations related to privacy considerations (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996).

A) Criteria for earned credit:

- Once started, a course must be completed within that licensing cycle in which it was started.
- To earn the approved contact hours of credit the participant must complete the reading of all materials and correctly answer all quiz questions.
- The participant must complete the course evaluation questionnaire.
- Courses have a timer that does not allow a participant to proceed through the program in less than the allotted time. Utilizing the Mastery approach to learning, there are quiz questions throughout the course that reinforce the key concepts of the course. Questions must be answered correctly to proceed through the course.

B) Disclosure of Conflicts of interest

- The planners and presenters report no conflict of interest and agree to present the material of this course without bias or promotion

C) Any sponsorship or commercial support

- This program has not received financial support from any commercial interest.

D) Non-endorsement

- *“Approval for contact hours through the AANN is based on an assessment of the educational merit of this program and does not constitute endorsement of the use of any specific product or modality in the care of clients.”*

F) Expiration Date for awarding Contact Hours

This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

**AANN approval code 1015/7/0
Approved through 10/15/2018**