

Course Title: MOD8-HON225G-Ethics**Credits: 2.00**

Course Description: This course explores the theory and practice of informed consent and mutual decision-making. Students answer theoretical and situational dilemmas that practitioners may face when providing care in this way, including nuts and bolts of how to provide different types of information. This course also aims to provide a general understanding of importance and complexity of ethics in healthcare. Students explore the role of their own ethics and personal opinions in the process of informed consent and how this can affect the care they provide care. As these topics are cornerstones of midwifery care, this course aims to set a foundation to guide students in questions that will be a significant part of their midwifery practice.

Learning Objectives:

A: Student will be able to answer the Study Questions (below).

B: Student will be able to demonstrate thorough knowledge of the Clinical Skills required for this course (None required for this course).

C: Student will demonstrate thorough knowledge of the MANA Core Competencies for Midwives required for this course (below).

D: Student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of any new information in the area of study.

Learning Activities:

I. Student Reads required texts.

II. Student Completes study questions.

III. Preceptor elaborates on study questions.

IV. Clinical Skills and Core Competencies training consists of the following (may take place at clinical visits or at childbirth education classes):

1. Preceptor Explanation of	Safe, evidence-based midwifery care for the individual Clinical Skills and Core Competencies including etiology, sequelae, appropriate management and follow-up for the individual patient, appropriate times and reasons for consult and referral, access to relevant resources and information, complete, thorough and timely record keeping, appropriate, professional, and compassionate management of every task involved, receptiveness and responsiveness to patient's concerns. The Explanation will include a discussion of midwifery decisions and actions as they relate to possible outcomes and their wider impact, based on the Midwives Model of Care®.
2. Preceptor Demonstration of	
3. Student Practice of	
4. Student Demonstration of	

V. Student researches and presents to the preceptor relevant latest

developments in academic and clinical midwifery as relevant to the subject.

VI. Student/Preceptor discussion.

Learning Materials / Resources:

(Please use textbooks less than 5 years old, or most recent edition)

1. Midwives' Alliance of North America. *Midwives' statement of ethics.* (Midwives' Alliance of North America): An article from: *Special Delivery.* 1991.

2. Mappes, Thomas and DeGrazia, David. Biomedical Ethics. 6th edition. McGraw-Hill Humanities. 2005.
3. Lo, Bernard. Resolving Ethical Dilemmas: A Guide for Clinicians. 4th edition. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 2009.
4. MANA Core Competencies for Midwives.
5. Midwives Model of Care®.
6. Internet links as needed for latest developments in midwifery care:
[The Cochrane Collaboration](#)
[EBSCO](#)
[National Library of Medicine](#)
[PubMed](#)
[Medline](#)
[SCIRUS](#)
[Medscape](#)
[World Health Organization](#)

Evaluation Tools / Methods:

1. Answers to study questions: Student must achieve at least 80% correct to pass. The preceptor evaluates each answer for correctness and explains the questions that were incorrect. This counts for 90% of the final grade.
2. Clinical Skills: None required for this course.
3. MANA Core Competencies: Student's ability to apply MANA Core Competencies for Midwives in discussion to simulated and real-life situations. This counts for 5% of the final grade.

Evaluation of NARM Skills and MANA Core Competencies: The student demonstrates thorough knowledge to the satisfaction of the preceptor in the following areas:

**The student will be able to, in accordance with safe, evidence-based midwifery care, explain the condition, verbalize etiology and sequelae, verbalize appropriate management for the individual patient, follow up appropriately, consult and refer appropriately, access resources and information, accomplish complete, thorough and timely record keeping, appropriately manage every task involved correctly, professionally, and compassionately, while being receptive and responsive to patient's concerns. She/he will be able to explain her decisions and actions as they relate to possible outcomes and their wider impact.*

4. Student presentation of new information in area of study. The preceptor evaluates the correctness of the information presented. This counts for 5% of the grade.

Study Questions

1. Describe how you will apply the Midwifery Model of Care to your exercise of ethical care.
2. Describe the two values that are the ethical foundation of Informed Consent.
3. Discuss the rationale for permitting patients to voluntarily make decisions about their health care.

4. Discuss the rationale for providing patients with the following information:
 - a. All relevant information regarding their condition
 - b. All relevant information regarding alternative treatments
 - c. All information about the possible risks, benefits, costs, other consequences, and significant uncertainties surrounding any of this information
5. Discuss "ethically valid consent." What kind of process is it; what is it based on; how can it be accomplished?
6. Describe how ethically valid consent is obtained if the patient is not well educated, articulate, and self-aware.
7. Discuss the health care provider's responsibility when confronted with violating the bounds of acceptable professional practice, the professional's own deeply held moral beliefs, or when asked to draw on a limited resource on which the patient has no binding claim.
8. Discuss the health care provider's responsibility when the patients lack substantial capacity to make their own decisions.
9. Discuss the health care provider's responsibility with regard to the disclosure of "unpleasant" information.
10. Discuss the health care provider's role in providing information as part of an institution or team.
11. Discuss the role of health care providers and institutions in relation to patients who request additional information not presently at the provider's disposal.
12. Discuss the rationale for having patients express orally or in writing their understanding of the treatment consented to.
13. Discuss the rationale for specific curricula aimed at preparing health professionals for a process of mutual decision-making.
14. Discuss the place of family members in the process of helping patients understand their conditions and possible treatments.
15. Discuss the establishment of mutual trust. What is the rationale for each factor contributing to mutual trust?
16. Discuss the place of court decisions in patient treatment.
17. Discuss the ethical considerations of withdrawing as the patient's care provider.

18. Discuss the interrelatedness of Ethics and Law.

Clinical Skills (NARM Skills)

No Clinical Skills Required for this course.

Core Competencies (MANA Core Competencies for Midwives)

II. General Knowledge and Skills

The midwife provides care incorporating certain concepts, skills and knowledge from a variety of health and social sciences including, but not limited to:

- 2 C. Community standards of care for women and their developing infants during the childbearing cycle, including midwifery and bio-technical medical standards and the rationale for and limitations of such standards
- 2 F. Informed decision-making.
- 2 I. Ethical considerations relevant to reproductive health.

VI. Newborn Care

The entry-level midwife provides health care to the newborn during the postpartum period and support and information to parents regarding newborn care. She determines the need for consultation or referral as appropriate. The midwife uses a foundation of knowledge and/or skill which includes the following:

- 6 D. Community standards and state laws regarding indications for, administration of, and the risks and benefits of prophylactic bio-technical treatments and screening tests commonly used during the neonatal period.

VII. Professional, Legal and Other Aspects

The entry-level midwife assumes responsibility for practicing in accord with the principles outlined in this document. The midwife uses a foundation of knowledge and/or skill which includes the following:

- 7 B. The purpose and goal of MANA and local (state or provincial) midwifery association
- 7 C. The principles and practice of data collection as relevant to midwifery care.
- 7 D. Laws governing the practice of midwifery in her local jurisdiction.
- 7 E. Various sites, styles and modes of practice within the larger midwifery community
- 7 F. A basic understanding of maternal/child health care delivery systems in her local jurisdiction.