Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: HCS 174

Course Title: Legal Issues in Health Care

Department: Allied Health
PCS Code: 1.2 - Occupational/Technical Instruction
CIP Code: 51.0801
Repeatability: 0

Effective Date: Summer 2026

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 1-0-1
Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 1	Lab: 0	Clinical: 0	**Total: 1**

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Law as it pertains to health professionals; consent for medical services, invasion of privacy, malpractice, governmental regulations, actions for collecting patient bills, bioethical, and end of life issues.

General Course Objectives

Students will identify laws governing their chosen field of health practice.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 099	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

2-5 objective exams, 8-12 Critical Thinking cases, and 1-4 case studies.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Healthcare Law and Ethics, 7th edition. Bonnie F. Fremgen. ISBN 9780138322243

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction to Medical Law, Ethics, and Bioethics	1. Describe the similarities and differences between laws and ethics. 2. List the reasons why health care providers should familiarize themselves with the laws. 3. Define bioethics, Three-decision making model, and Medical etiquette. 4. Demonstrate an awareness of diversity.	1	0	0
The Legal Environment	1. List the reasons for understanding the legal system. 2. Identify laws: sources/classification, criminal actions taken against health care workers. 3. Describe the duties of an expert witness.	1	0	0
Importance of the Legal System for the MD and the Healthcare Professional	1. List the basic characteristics of Illinois state medical practice acts. 2. Identify how a physician can become licensed in the state. 3. Discuss actions/inactions for a license to be revoked. 4. Define licensure and certification.	1	0	0
Today's Healthcare Environment	1. Identify categories of licensed nurses and categories of certified healthcare professionals. 2. Describe how Medicare and Medicaid influence healthcare today.	1	0	0
The Physician-Patient Relationship	1. Describe the rights of a physician. 2. List the principles of medical ethics.	1	0	0
Public Duties of Physician and the Healthcare Professional	1. Define malpractice and identify who can be sued for malpractice. 2. Define negligence and identify who can be sued for negligence. 3. Describe the liability of other health professionals.	1	0	0
Workplace Law and Ethics	1. Describe the public duties expected and required of a Physician and other Healthcare Professionals.	1	0	0
The Medical Record	1. Describe professionalism in the workplace. 2. List examples of discrimination in the workplace. 3. Identify cultural and religious considerations. 4. Identify legal and illegal interview questions. 5. Identify the value of the EEO and ED acts. 6. Describe consumer protection and collection practices.	1	0	0
Patient Confidentiality and HIPAA	1. Identify the parts of a medical record. 2. List the rules pertaining to the patient information. 3. Discuss how the medical record may be used in a court of law.	1.5	0	0
Ethical and Bioethical Issues in Medicine	1. Give examples and define patient confidentiality. 2. Define HIPAA and give examples. 3. Identify the common ways healthcare providers violate the law.	1	0	0
Ethical Issues Relating to Life	1. Determine the steps in making ethical and bioethical decisions in healthcare. 2. Define and describe the Seven-Step Decision Model.	1	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Death and Dying	1. Discuss ethical considerations in relation to conception, birth, sterilization, and genetic counseling and testing.	1.5	0	0
Exams	1. Define terms relating to death, dying, irreversible coma, and euthanasia. 2. Define Advance Directives. 3. Describe Hospice Care and Palliative Care.	2	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
15	0	0