

**MED 118**  
**MEDICAL LAW AND ETHICS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Prerequisites: Acceptance into the Medical Assisting diploma or certificate program

Corequisites: MED 110, MED 121

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 to demonstrate the following competencies and knowledge by written and/or competency evaluations:

- a. Define key terms.
- b. Discuss the code of ethics and the responsibilities of healthcare providers.
- c. Identify legal relationships between physicians and patients.
- d. Discuss performing within legal boundaries.
- e. Discuss the roles and differences of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO's) and Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO's).
- f. Outline the standard of care as it relates to medical malpractice
- g. Discuss different types of licensure, registration, and certification of the allied health team.
- h. Differentiate between technologist and technician.
- i. Discuss the steps for obtaining narcotic registration, as well as the schedule of narcotic drugs.
- j. Compare different types of medical practice management.
- k. Discuss the establishment and maintenance of medical records.
- l. Outline proper ethical guidelines for sharing patient medical information.
- m. Discuss the importance and the impact of HIPPA on medical records.
- n. Define conditions for reporting physical abuse.
- o. Compare consent and informed consent.
- p. Differentiate between living will, advance directive, and the durable power of attorney for health care.
- q. Outline benefits and problems associated with genetic testing.
- r. Describe the role of physicians and health professionals in death and dying situations.

## **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 TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:**

Texts to be selected by the instructor and made available through the bookstore.

## **STATEMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.