

OST 149
MEDICAL LEGAL ISSUES

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

This course introduces the complex legal, moral, and ethical issues involved in providing health care services. Emphasis is on the legal requirements of medical practices; the relationship of physician, patient, and office personnel; professional liabilities; and medical practice liability. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of current medical law and accepted ethical behavior. This course is a unique concentration requirement of the Medical Office Systems Technology concentration in the Office Systems Technology program. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- a. Adhere to procedures concerning company and patient confidentiality.
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of the legal aspects of a medical office.
- c. Apply ethics in a medical environment.
- d. Perform within organization structure.
- e. Demonstrate sound business code of ethics.
- f. Adhere to safety regulations and welfare.
- g. Interact with co-workers, management, doctors, and the public.
- h. Speak effectively.
- i. Listen effectively.
- j. Adhere to office policies and regulations.
- k. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the basics for laws.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Introduction to Law and Ethics
 - A. Study of Law and Ethics
 - B. Aspects of Law and Ethics
 - C. Qualities of Successful Health Care Practitioners

- II. Working in a Health Care Profession
 - A. Licensure, Certifications, and Registration
 - B. Medical Practice Acts and Medical Boards
 - C. Health Care Professions
 - D. Physician's License and Responsibilities
 - E. Medical Practice Management Systems
 - F. Risk Management
 - G. Types of Managed Care

- III. Law and the Courts
 - A. The Basics for Laws
 - B. Sources of Law
 - C. Classifications of Law
 - D. Tort Liability
 - E. The Court System

- IV. Contracts
 - A. Basic Elements of Contract Law
 - B. Types of Contracts
 - C. The Physician-Patient Contract and Managed Care
 - D. The Physician's Rights and Responsibilities
 - E. The Patient's Rights and Responsibilities
 - F. Termination of Contracts
 - G. Law of Agency

- V. Professional Liability and Medical Malpractice
 - A. Liability
 - B. Standard of Care
 - C. Privacy, Confidentiality, and Privileged Communication
 - D. The Tort Negligence
 - E. Elements of a Lawsuit
 - F. Alternative Dispute Resolution

- VI. Defenses to Liability Suits
 - A. Preventing Liability Suits
 - B. Types of Defenses
 - C. Professional Liability Insurance

- VII. Medical Records and Informed Consent
 - A. Medical Records
 - B. Consent
 - C. Uniform Anatomical Gift Act
 - D. The National Transplant Act

- VIII. Physician's Public Duties and Responsibilities
 - A. Vital statistics
 - B. Public Health Statutes

- IX. Workplace Legalities
 - A. Law and the Affects in the Workplace
 - B. Labor and Employment Laws
 - C. Employee Safety and Welfare
 - D. Hiring and the New Employee

- X. Bioethics: Social Issues
 - A. Codes of Ethics
 - B. AMA Ethical Guidelines
 - C. Choices for Life or Death
 - D. HIV Testing

- XI. Interpersonal Relationships and Practice Matters
 - A. Ethics and the Business of Health Care
 - B. Interprofessional Relationships
 - C. Communications Issues
 - D. Fees and Charges
 - E. Medical Records
 - F. Practice Matters
 - G. Professional Rights and Responsibilities

- XII. Death and Dying
 - A. Attitudes Toward Death and Dying
 - B. Determination of Death
 - C. Caring for Dying Patients
 - D. Planning Ahead
 - E. Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide
 - F. The Grieving Process

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

Judson, K. and Hicks, S. Law and Ethics for Medical Careers. 4th ed. Glencoe/McGraw Hill-A Division of the McGraw Hill Companies, 1999.

STATEMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from the Disability Services Coordinator within the first two weeks of the semester. Likewise, students who may require emergency medical attention due to a chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disabilities services counselor within the first two weeks of the semester. 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.