

Course Outline: Ethics for Healthcare Workers in Australia

Course Introduction: Foundations of Healthcare Ethics. All lessons conclude with a Quiz

This introductory module establishes the philosophical and historical roots of medical ethics.

- Lesson: The Origin of Ethics in Healthcare
- Lesson: The Twentieth Century and the Birth of Bioethics
- Lesson: Understanding Ethics in Healthcare Practice
- Lesson: A Framework for Ethical Decision-Making in Healthcare Practice
- Lesson: Ethical Boundaries – Causes of Breaches and Contributing Factors
- Lesson: Schools of Ethical Thought in Healthcare
- Lesson: Deontological Ethics (Duty-Based Ethics)
- Lesson: Utilitarianism (Consequentialist Ethics)
- Lesson: Virtue Ethics: Character and Moral Excellence
- Lesson: Principlism: A Practical Framework for Biomedical Ethics
- Lesson: Casuistry (Case-Based Ethics)
- Lesson: Feminist Ethics and the Ethics of Care
- Lesson: Communitarian Ethics
- Lesson: Religious and Cultural Ethics
- Assessment: Quizzes follow each lesson to ensure foundational mastery.

Chapter 1: Introduction to Ethics in Healthcare

- Lesson: Defining Ethics and Professionalism
- Lesson: The Origin of Ethics (Clinical Focus)
- Lesson: Importance of Ethics in Clinical Practice
- Lesson: Overview of Ethical Frameworks and Principles
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 2: Core Ethical Principles

Focusing on the "Big Four" and the nuances of professional integrity.

- Lesson: Autonomy – The Foundational Principle of Australian Healthcare Ethics
- Lesson: Beneficence (Acting in the best interest)
- Lesson: Non-maleficence (Do no harm)
- Lesson: Justice (Equity and Fairness)
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 3: Legal and Regulatory Framework in Australia

- Lesson: AHPRA and National Boards: Roles and Responsibilities
- Lesson: National Law and Health Practitioner Regulation in Australia
- Lesson: Codes of Conduct and Professional Guidelines
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 4: Informed Consent and Shared Decision-Making

- Lesson: Informed Consent: Legal and Ethical Requirements
- Lesson: Capacity and Competence in Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: Risks, Benefits, and Alternatives: The Disclosure Standard
- Lesson: Special Considerations: Children and Cognitively Impaired Patients
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 5: Confidentiality and Privacy

- Lesson: Electronic Records and Data Security (My Health Record)
- Lesson: Legal Requirements: Privacy Act and Health Records Legislation
- Lesson: Exceptions to Confidentiality in Australian Healthcare
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 6: Professional Boundaries and Relationships

- Lesson: Power Dynamics in Healthcare
- Lesson: Avoiding Conflicts of Interest in Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: Social Media and Boundary Considerations
- Lesson: Managing Dual Relationships in Australian Healthcare

- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 7: Cultural Safety and Respect

- Lesson: Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
- Lesson: Respecting Cultural and Spiritual Beliefs in Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: Avoiding Unconscious Bias and Discrimination
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 8: Ethical Issues at the End of Life

- Lesson: Advance Care Planning and Directives
- Lesson: Palliative Care Ethics in Australia
- Lesson: Withholding and Withdrawing Treatment
- Lesson: Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD): Legal and Ethical Landscape
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 9: Duty of Care and Mandatory Reporting

- Lesson: Scope of Duty of Care: Clinical and Legal Boundaries
- Lesson: Reporting Child Abuse, Elder Abuse, and Impaired Practitioners
- Lesson: Whistleblowing Protections for Healthcare Workers
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 10: Ethical Dilemmas in Daily Practice

- Lesson: Resource Allocation and Triage (Medicare and Public Health)
- Lesson: Refusal of Treatment in Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: Disclosing Medical Errors: Open Disclosure Standards
- Lesson: Managing Moral Distress in Australian Healthcare
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 11: Teamwork, Ethics, and Interprofessional Collaboration

- Lesson: Respecting Roles and Responsibilities in Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: Ethical Communication in Teams: Foundations for Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: Conflict Resolution in Healthcare Settings
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 12: Research, Innovation, and Emerging Technologies

- Lesson: Ethics in Clinical Trials and NHMRC Guidelines
- Lesson: Consent for Research in Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: AI, Telehealth, and Digital Health Ethics
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 13: Reflective Practice and Ethical Growth

- Lesson: Ethical Decision-Making Models (Applying Theory to Practice)
- Lesson: Building Moral Resilience in Healthcare
- Lesson: Reflective Journaling and Clinical Supervision
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

Chapter 14: Case Studies and Practical Scenarios

- Integrated review of real-world Australian medical scenarios.
- Application of the "Ethical Decision-Making Model" to complex cases.

Chapter 15: Final Review and Assessment

- Comprehensive summary of AHPRA ethical requirements.
- Final Course Assessment: A summative exam covering all 14 chapters.

