

# **Course Outline: Ethics for Healthcare Workers in Australia**

## ***Course Introduction: Foundations of Healthcare 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***

- 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)
- Lesson: Fidelity and veracity
- 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
- Lesson: Substitute Decision-Making in New South Wales: Legal and Ethical Frameworks
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

### ***Chapter 5: Confidentiality and Privacy***

- Lesson: Electronic Records and Data Security
- Lesson: Legal Requirements: Privacy Act and Health Records Legislation
- Lesson: Exceptions to Confidentiality in Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: Patient Confidentiality: Legal and Ethical Frameworks
- 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
- Therapeutic Relationships, Sexual Boundaries and Financial Boundaries 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
- Lesson: Refusal of Treatment in Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: Disclosing Medical Errors
- Lesson: Managing Moral Distress in Australian Healthcare
- Lesson: Cosmetic Procedures and Scope of Practice
- Lesson: Reproductive Ethics
- Lesson: Mental health ethics
- Lesson: Genetic and Genomic Medicine

- 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: Professional Conduct and Competence***

- Lesson - Professional Conduct and Competence

### ***Chapter 13: Research, Innovation, and Emerging Technologies***

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

### ***Chapter 14: Reflective Practice and Ethical Growth***

- Lesson: Ethical Decision-Making Models
- Lesson: Building Moral Resilience in Healthcare
- Lesson: Reflective Journaling and Clinical Supervision
- Assessment: Quizzes for each lesson.

### ***Chapter 15: Case Studies and Practical Scenarios***

- Interactive Case Discussions
- Real-world Ethical Dilemmas in Australian Practice
- Learning from Past Incidents and Inquiries

### ***Chapter 16: Final Review and Assessment***

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