

# ***40-Hour Adult/Adolescent SANE-SART Course***

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# **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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# OBJECTIVES

- ❑ Discuss professional and ethical conduct as they relate to adult/adolescent SANE practice and the care of the adult and adolescent sexual assault populations, including the ethical principles of:
  - ❑ Autonomy
  - ❑ Beneficence
  - ❑ Nonmalfeasance
  - ❑ Veracity
  - ❑ Justice
- ❑ Identify nursing resources, locally and globally, that contribute to current and competent adult/adolescent SANE practice

# NURSING CODE OF ETHICS

## ■ Purpose

- States the ethical obligations and duties of every individual who enters the nursing profession
- The professions nonnegotiable ethical standard
- An expression of nursing's own understanding of its commitment to society

# NURSING CODE OF ETHICS

- Ethics is an integral part of the foundation of nursing
- “Ethical” and “Moral” are used throughout the code of ethics

# NURSING CODE OF ETHICS

- The forensic nurse role is governed first and foremost by the state nurse practice act
  - Specific to each state
- Nurses are held to a code of ethics
- Scope and standards of practice for forensic nurses

# NURSING CODE OF ETHICS

- **1. The nurse in all professional relationships will practice with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual, despite social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems**

# NURSING CODE OF ETHICS

- **2. Nurses primary commitment is to the patient**
  - Patient plays a part in the planning of his/her care

# CONFIDENTIALITY

- **The duty of confidentiality is a basic concept of ethical nursing practice.**
  - **Mandatory Reporting**
- **HIPAA**
  - **Exceptions 45 CFR 164.512**
  - **Forensic nurses can play an important role by understanding HIPAA and facilitating the release of protected health information**

# INFORMED CONSENT

- Concept of informed consent is based on the right of the individual to make choices about what will happen to his or her body.
  - Risks
  - Benefits
  - Alternatives
  - Consequences
- Pt should be given option to consent to each part of the forensic/medical evaluation

# CASE STUDY

- Jane Williams is a SANE, who completed her second examination of the day and has gone into the examination bathroom to clean and restock. The toilet will not stop running, so she lifts the lid and in the back of the toilet is a plastic bag containing what appears to be a dried green leafy substance. Jane calls security to come and get the bag. Security notifies local law enforcement. The police determine that the bag contains marijuana, and they want Jane to give them the names of all the patients who have received an examination during the past month. Jane is not sure what she needs to do to protect patient confidentiality. ---continued next slide

# CASE STUDY CONT.

- She contacts the hospital risk manager and the hospital's HIPAA privacy officer. The HIPAA privacy officer is the person designated by the hospital to train hospital employees about HIPAA and help the hospital enforce the federal privacy standards. After reviewing hospital policy and HIPAA regulations, Jane and the risk manager inform the police department that the patients' names cannot be released unless the patients agree to authorize the release of information or unless the police obtain a court order signed by the judge.

■ Forensic Nursing Science, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2011. pg. 542

# Quiz3

Question 1 of 1

Point Value: 0

The nurse is never allowed to release information to law enforcement

- True
- False

## PROPERTIES

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**After user has completed quiz**

**At any time**

**Unlimited times**



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# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Guiding principles of ethical decision making
  - Autonomy
  - Justice
  - Beneficence
  - Nonmaleficence

# AUTONOMY

- **Personal rule of the self that is free from both controlling interferences by others and from personal limitations that prevent meaningful choice.” Autonomous individuals act intentionally, with understanding, and without controlling influences.**

# JUSTICE

- Treating all patients fair and equal
- Requires that the process for making decisions for patients be fair and just

# NON-MALFEASANCE

- Do no harm
- Do the benefits outweigh the burdens?

# BENEFICENCE

- **Action that is done for the benefit of others. Beneficent actions can be taken to help prevent or remove harms or to simply improve the situation of others.**

## Quiz2

Question 1 of 1

Point Value: 10

Which of the following is not one of the guiding principles of ethical decision making?

- autonomy
- justice
- confidentiality
- nonmaleficence

### PROPERTIES

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# VISION OF ETHICAL PRACTICE

- IAFN expectations
- IAFN Code of Ethics
  - Created in 1994, the IAFN's committee on ethics developed the forensic nurse's code of ethics and presented it to the membership the following year. The code was tailored to address the unique aspects of forensic nursing

# NURSING CODE OF ETHICS

- Learning to bridge the gap between the healthcare system and the criminal justice system

# IAFN CODE OF ETHICS

- Fidelity to patients and clients
- Responsibility to the public
- Obligation to science
- Care of the profession
- Dedication to colleagues

# IAFN CODE OF ETHICS

- **Fidelity to patients and clients**
  - Forensic nurses serve patients and clients faithfully and incorruptibly. They also respect confidentiality and advise patients and clients about the limits of confidentiality as determined by their practice setting.

# IAFN CODE OF ETHICS

- **Responsibility to the public**
  - Forensic nurses have a professional responsibility to serve the public welfare. Forensic nurses should recognize their role in preventing violence, which includes societal factors, such as oppression that promote violence. Forensic nurses acknowledge the value and dignity of all human beings and strive to create a world where violence is not accepted.

# IAFN CODE OF ETHICS

- **Obligation to science**
  - Forensic nurses should seek to advance nursing and forensic science, understand the limits of their knowledge and respect the truth

# IAFN CODE OF ETHICS

- **Care of the profession**
  - Forensic nurses should remain current with the developments in their field, share ideas and information, keep accurate and complete records, maintain integrity in all conduct and publications, and give due credit to the publications of others.

# IAFN CODE OF ETHICS

- **Dedication to colleagues**
  - Forensic nurses perform work honestly and competently, fulfill obligations, and safeguard proprietary information

# ETHICS WRAP-UP

- Forensic nursing is a unique field that is still developing every day
- Day to day ethical issues can involve:
  - Supporting patient choices
  - Respecting people
  - Treating people fairly
  - Treating people with dignity

# Quiz1

Question 1 of 1

Point Value: 0

The IAFN code of ethics was developed to discipline the forensic nurse.

- True
- False

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# PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES



# PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES



International Association of Forensic Nurses

MEMBER



- International Association of Forensic Nursing
- Founded in 1992
- Mission: To provide leadership in forensic nursing practice by developing, promoting, and disseminating information internationally about forensic nursing science

# IAFN KANSAS CHAPTER

- Established in 2011
- Collaboration with forensic nurses across the state
- Quarterly meetings
- Education
- Fundraising
- Collaboration with IAFN



# GLOBAL & LOCAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women
- World Health Organization
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCDSV)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
- Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV)

## Quiz6

Question 1 of 1 ▾

Point Value: 0

The International Association of Forensic Nurses developed the STI testing and treatment guidelines

- True
- False

### PROPERTIES

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# RESOURCES

- American Nurses Association, Inc. Nursing Code of Ethics, (2005).
- IAFN Code of Ethics: The Forensic Nurse's Code of Ethics
- Lynch, Virginia. Forensic Nursing Science, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. St. Louis: Mosby, 2011.

# Quiz Instructions

**Kansas Coalition Against Sexual  
and Domestic Violence**

**785-232-9784**

**[coalition@kcsdv.org](mailto:coalition@kcsdv.org)**

**[Click here to access the quiz](#)**