1.04 Understand legal and ethical issues of the healthcare professional
Importance for the healthcare professional to understand legal and ethical issues

1. Knowledge of legal responsibilities
2. Limitations of practice
3. Implications of their actions
Importance for the healthcare professional to understand legal and ethical issues

4. **Protection of**
   a. Healthcare professionals
   b. Patients
   c. Co-workers
   d. Facility
Importance for the healthcare professional to understand legal and ethical issues

5. **Ethical behavior ensures**
   a. Quality patient care
   b. Positive work relationships
   c. Well-managed workplace
Legal and ethical dilemmas encountered by healthcare professionals
Legal and Ethical Dilemmas

Abortion

- Termination of a pregnancy
  - Spontaneous
  - Induced

Abortion is legal. What are the ethical issues?
Legal and Ethical Dilemmas

End of life

1.04 Understand legal and ethical issues
Legal and Ethical Dilemmas

Euthanasia (mercy killing)

The act of ending the life of an individual in a painless manner. Individual is usually suffering from a terminal illness.

Voluntary

Involuntary

Assisted
Legal and Ethical Dilemmas

Advanced Directives

- Legal documents that allow the patient to state the end of life treatments they would or would not want, in the event that they become unable to make those decisions.
Legal and Ethical Dilemmas

Living Will

- Patient’s document that states specific measures to be taken or not taken to prolong life.
  - Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)
  - Hydration
  - Medication
Legal and Ethical Issues

Power of Attorney

- Document that names the person that will make healthcare decisions for the patient that is unable to do so.
Legal and Ethical Dilemmas

Organ Donation

The removal of healthy tissues from one person for the purpose of transplanting them into another person.

Donor can be living or recently deceased.
Legal and Ethical Dilemmas

Research and Experimental Treatment

- Healthcare research seeks to develop treatments for a disease process, or to establish new knowledge for health and wellness maintenance.
  - AIDS
  - Stem Cell
  - Cancer Research