

## Chapter 01 Introduction to Law and Ethics

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Law may be defined as
- A. a moral code.
  - B. good manners.
  - C.** rules of conduct.
  - D. protocol.
  - E. the rules of behavior.

Laws are rules that require everyone to behave the same way or face formal punishment.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

2. Etiquette rules used in the workplace are called
- A.** protocol.
  - B. ethics.
  - C. policies.
  - D. morals.
  - E. beliefs.

Different offices may have different rules of etiquette in the office.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

Chapter 01 - Introduction to Law and Ethics

3. Which of the following is/are not enacted by government?

- A. laws
- B. statutes
- C. legislation
- D. medical practice acts
- E. etiquette rules**

Etiquette changes depending on the organization and situation.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

4. What do professional organizations create to govern their members?

- A. laws
- B. codes of ethics**
- C. statutes
- D. procedure manuals
- E. etiquette standards

A code of ethics allows standards to be set to define competency.

*ABHES: 4.g. Display compliance with Code of Ethics of the profession*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: X.A.1. Apply ethical behaviors, including honesty/integrity in performance of medical assisting practice*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

5. What is the purpose of formalized codes of ethics in the health care professions?

- A.** to increase the competence within the profession
- B. to revoke the licenses of unethical practitioners
- C. to provide a consistent guide for protocol
- D. to relieve the lawmaking bodies of their legal responsibilities
- E. to establish formal standard of care rules

A code of ethics allows standards to be set to define competency.

*ABHES: 4.g. Display compliance with Code of Ethics of the profession*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: X.A.1. Apply ethical behaviors, including honesty/integrity in performance of medical assisting practice*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

6. What document serves as a guideline for employees about professional behavior and etiquette?

- A. the AMA's Code of Ethics
- B.** the office policy manual
- C. medical practice acts
- D. Emily Post's *Guide to Etiquette*
- E. the statutes of the city where the organization is located

Most organizations have a policy manual that provides employees with guidance in how to act in certain situations.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

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7. What is the meaning of the term litigious?
- A. higher number of practicing lawyers
  - B. decreased legal liability
  - C. increase in the number of lawsuits**
  - D. increase in consumer awareness of health care
  - E. increase in laws covering error

A litigious society is one in which patients, relatives, and others are inclined to sue health care practitioners, health care facilities, manufacturers of medical equipment and products, and others when medical outcomes are not acceptable.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.01*

*Topic: Why study law and ethics*

8. The plaintiff in a lawsuit is the
- A. party against who criminal or civil charges have been filed.
  - B. party filing the civil charges.**
  - C. party keeping order in the court.
  - D. party that testifies.
  - E. party that dismisses the suit.

The plaintiff is the person(s) filing the law suit. A defendant is the person being sued. The bailiff keeps order in the court, witnesses testify in court, and judges preside over lawsuits.

*ABHES: none*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.01*

*Topic: Why study law and ethics*

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9. A pledge for physicians that remains influential today is:

- A. Code of Hammurabi
- B. Babylonian Ethics Code
- C. Hippocratic oath**
- D. Socrates' pledge
- E. Percival's Ethics

Hippocrates created an oath that is still used today.

*ABHES: 4.g. Display compliance with Code of Ethics of the profession*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.03*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

10. The defendant in a lawsuit is the

- A. party against who criminal or civil charges have been filed.**
- B. party filing the civil charges.
- C. party keeping order in the court.
- D. party that testifies.
- E. party that dismisses the suit.

A defendant is the person being sued and who must defend himself or herself in court. The bailiff keeps order in the court, witnesses testify in court, and judges preside over lawsuits. The plaintiff is the person(s) filing the lawsuit.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.01*

*Topic: Why study law and ethics*

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11. An attorney files a motion that pleads there is no basis for a trial. This is called:

- A. acceptance
- B. precedent
- C. summary judgment**
- D. administrative law
- E. liability

Summary judgment states that one party is entitled to win as a matter of law and no trial is necessary.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.01*

*Topic: Why study law and ethics*

12. Another term for legal responsibility is:

- A. liability**
- B. litigious
- C. testimony
- D. defense
- E. precedent

Legal responsibility is also known as legal liability. A person(s) or organization may be found legally responsible for an action.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.01*

*Topic: Why study law and ethics*

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13. Ethics may be defined as

- A. a standard of competence.
- B.** principles, standards, and a guide to conduct.
- C. courtesy and manners.
- D. beliefs formed through the influence of family, culture, and society.
- E. rules of etiquette.

Ethics and moral values are sometimes confused. Ethics are a guide to conduct, while moral values are the beliefs formed through the influence of family culture, and society.

*ABHES: 4.g. Display compliance with Code of Ethics of the profession*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Understand*

*CAAHEP: CAAHEP: X.A.1. Apply ethical behaviors, including honesty/integrity in performance of medical assisting practice*

*Difficulty: 2 Medium*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.03*

14. Bioethics is concerned with:

- A. etiquette in medical research
- B. health care law
- C. the ethics of scientists doing research in a university
- D.** ethical implications of biological research methods and results
- E. moral values of the scientists

Bioethics is the study of how biological research and ethical guidelines are established.

*ABHES: none*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.03*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

15. Which of the following is a synonym for "good manners"?

- A. protocol
- B. etiquette**
- C. morals
- D. laws
- E. ethics

Etiquette is the basic rules of behavior usually known as good manners.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.03*

16. The first step in a critical thinking problem solving is to

- A. evaluate the evidence.
- B. gather information.
- C. clarify the problem.**
- D. consider alternatives.
- E. implement the right decision.

Identifying and clarifying the problem is the first step in critical thinking. It is followed by gathering information, evaluating the evidence, considering the alternatives, and implementing the decision.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.04*

*Topic: Qualities of successful health care practitioners*

17. A medical-surgical nurse is going off shift and giving her report to the nurse coming on duty. She is clearly and accurately describing the conditions of the patients she cared for during her shift. This is an example of which skill?

- A. people skills
- B. critical thinking skills
- C. technical skills
- D. moral values skills
- E. problem-solving skills

People skills include good communication skills. Critical thinking is problem-solving skills, and technical skills may include proficiencies in working with equipment.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.04*

*Topic: Qualities of successful health care practitioners*

18. Which of the following is an example of a health care practitioner displaying compassion for a patient?

- A. A physician making rounds in a hospital asks a patient how he is doing.
- B. A nurse feels sorry for patient who was just diagnosed with cancer.
- C. A medical assistant inquires about a patient's children.
- D. A LPN helps an elderly person walk through the hallways.
- E. A physician sits down with a patient and addresses all the patient's concerns.

Compassion is empathy—the identification and understanding of another's situation, feelings, and motives. This occurs when the physician takes the time to listen to the patient and answer questions. Sympathy is when one feels sorry for another. Asking about a patient's family is courtesy, and helping a patient walk is a work-related task.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Understand*

*CAAHEP: IX.A.1. Demonstrate sensitivity to patient rights*

*Difficulty: 2 Medium*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.04*

*Topic: Qualities of successful health care practitioners*

19. A radiology technician approaches a new patient and states: "I am Jennifer and I will be taking care of you today." This is an example of which of the three "C's"?

- A. Common sense.
- B. Compassion.
- C. Commitment.
- D. Coordination.
- E.** Courtesy.

The simple definition of courtesy is good manners, as is displayed when the technician introduces herself to the patient.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.04*

*Topic: Qualities of successful health care practitioners*

20. Laws applying specifically to the practice of medicine in a certain state are called:

- A. Protocol Acts
- B. Civil Licensing Acts
- C. State Medical Guidelines
- D.** Medical Practice Acts
- E. Administrative Medical Law

Every state enacts a medical practice act to provide laws to govern the practice of medicine.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: IX.A.3. Recognize the importance of local, state and federal legislation and regulations in the practice setting*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

21. A student medical assistant doing his/her internship in a physician's office refuses to wipe up a spilled drink in the exam room hallway because she he/she believes housekeeping is not part of his/her job description. The student is demonstrating the absence of which quality deemed necessary for successful health care practitioners?

- A. compassion
- B. technical skill
- C. common sense**
- D. courtesy
- E. etiquette

All health care personnel are responsible for maintaining a safe workplace. If a patient or another employee were to slip and fall because the student thought it was not his/her job, that demonstrates a lack of common sense.

*ABHES: 4.e. Perform risk management procedures*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Apply*

*CAAHEP: X.A.1. Apply ethical behaviors, including honesty/integrity in performance of medical assisting practice*

*Difficulty: 3 Hard*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.04*

*Topic: Qualities of successful health care practitioners*

22. Formed through the influences of family, culture, and society, these serve as the basis for ethical conduct:

- A. moral values**
- B. codes of etiquette
- C. protocol standards
- D. laws
- E. policies and procedures

Our values are determined by a variety of influences including our family, culture, and society. Sometimes, one of these influences has more weight than others.

*ABHES: 4.g. Display compliance with Code of Ethics of the profession*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: X.A.2. Examine the impact personal ethics and morals may have on the individual's practice*

*CAAHEP: X.P.2. Develop a plan for separation of personal and professional ethics*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.03*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

23. A health care practitioner completes a course in law and ethics. Which of the following is one of the most important reasons health care professionals should be familiar with this field of study?

- A. to promote patient and employee safety
- B. to help explain the process of informed consent to patients
- C. to help avoid legal entanglements**
- D. to learn the inner workings of the health care system
- E. to better supervise other health care practitioners

While learning the system, understanding informed consent and promoting safety may be facilitated by studying law and ethics. They are not the primary reason health care professionals should be familiar with law and ethics.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.01*

*Topic: Why study law and ethics*

24. Unlawful acts are always:

- A. unacceptable
- B. unethical**
- C. punishable by legal means
- D. punishable by professional groups
- E. those that require time in jail

An illegal act is always considered unethical. It *may* be punishable by legal means.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Apply*

*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*

*CAAHEP: X.A.1. Apply ethical behaviors, including honesty/integrity in performance of medical assisting practice*

*Difficulty: 3 Hard*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.03*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

25. Unethical behavior is always:

- A. unacceptable
- B. illegal
- C. punishable by legal means
- D. punishable by professional groups
- E. behavior that requires time in jail

Although unethical behavior is wrong, it is not necessarily illegal. For example, some providers believe that it is unethical to perform an abortion; however, it is not illegal.

*ABHES: 4.g. Display compliance with Code of Ethics of the profession*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Apply*

*CAAHEP: X.A.1. Apply ethical behaviors, including honesty/integrity in performance of medical assisting practice*

*Difficulty: 3 Hard*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.03*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

26. Which of the following is considered a technical skill?

- A. tact
- B. problem solving
- C. common sense
- D. gathering information
- E. computer literacy

Technical skills include those abilities acquired in a course of study, such as computer skills. Tact is a people skill, and common sense, problem solving, and gathering information are critical thinking skills.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Understand*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 2 Medium*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.04*

*Topic: Qualities of successful health care practitioners*

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27. A precedent is a
- A. law enacted by the federal government.
  - B.** a case that serves as a model for future cases.
  - C. a protocol rule.
  - D. an alternative case.
  - E. a policy or procedure.

In case law, previous cases often serve as guidance for the court.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*  
*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*  
*Bloom's: Remember*  
*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*  
*Difficulty: 1 Easy*  
*Est Time: 0-1 minute*  
*Learning Outcome: 01.01*  
*Topic: Why study law and ethics*

28. Written codes of ethics for health care practitioners:
- A.** evolved primarily to serve as moral guidelines for those who provide care
  - B. are legally binding
  - C. did not exist in ancient times
  - D. are used in legal cases
  - E. are enforced by hospitals

Although codes of ethics are important and have been around for a long time, they are not legally binding.

*ABHES: 4.g. Display compliance with Code of Ethics of the profession*  
*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*  
*Bloom's: Remember*  
*CAAHEP: None*  
*Difficulty: 1 Easy*  
*Est Time: 0-1 minute*  
*Learning Outcome: 01.01*  
*Topic: Why study law and ethics*

29. The health care professional who studies law and ethics gains perspective on current issues that affect health care practice. Which of the following accurately describes one of those issues?

- A. A decrease in health care costs makes health care more affordable.
- B. The media has ensured that everyone has the same access to medical care.
- C.** With the advancement of medical technology patients expect favorable outcomes.
- D. Health care professionals should not be involved in the legal issues of patients.
- E. The role of the private sector in health care

As medical technology has advanced, patients have come to expect favorable outcomes from medical treatment. Rising costs lead to questions concerning access to care, and health care practitioners need to be concerned about how law and ethics may affect the patients they treat.

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.01*

*Topic: Why study law and ethics*

30. A new employee in a large medical practice is looking for the professional etiquette staff members are expected to follow. Which would be the best source for learning these rules?

- A. the employee's professional code of ethics
- B. the state's medical practice acts
- C. the bulletin board in the employee lounge
- D.** the office policy manual
- E. a search on the Internet for office etiquette

Most health care facilities have their own policies concerning etiquette that staff members are expected to follow. These manuals may serve as both a permanent record, as well as guidelines, for employees

*ABHES: None*

*Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

## Short Answer Questions

31. Dishonest or deceitful practices in depriving, or attempting to deprive, another of his or her rights is considered:

fraud or intentional deceit.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: IX.C.8. Compare criminal and civil law as it applies to the practicing medical assistant*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

32. Standards of behavior, developed as a result of one's concept of right and wrong, is known as:

ethics, which is concerned with the concept of right or wrong over and above that which is legal in a given situation.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: X.A.1. Apply ethical behaviors, including honesty/integrity in performance of medical assisting practice*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

33. A specialist who consults with physicians, researchers, and others to help them make difficult decisions is known as:

a medical ethicist or bioethicist.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*

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34. Rules of etiquette applicable to one's place of employment are known as:

protocol, which is a set of rules that everyone must follow within in an organization.

*ABHES: 4.f. Comply with federal, state, and local health laws and regulations as they relate to healthcare settings*

*Bloom's: Remember*

*CAAHEP: None*

*Difficulty: 1 Easy*

*Est Time: 0-1 minute*

*Learning Outcome: 01.02*

*Topic: Comparing aspects of law and ethics*