Ph.D. in Health Services  
Health Administration Specialization

Specialized Knowledge Area Module VI  
Contemporary Issues and the Ethical Delivery  
of Health Services

Introduction

Since its formal beginning in 1934 at the University of Chicago the field of health administration has developed significantly. Along with this development has been the growing awareness of the relevance of ethical considerations in decision making about the provision and delivery of health services. Central to the process of health administration is the management of conflicting values. Conflicts at the macro level involve community and cultural values; the meso or intermediate level relate to industrial or institutional levels; and the micro level are individual- or professional-related. Conflicts may occur within levels or between levels. The rapid changes that are occurring in society and the health services field have made the task of managing these conflicts all the more complicated.

While ethical issues confronting health administrations are not new, formal consideration has only recently been given to the development of the understanding of issues, theories, and methods to evaluate ethical dilemmas. This KAM is designed to assist developing your competence in the application of ethical theories and principles to decision making related to the provision and delivery of preventive, diagnostic, curative, and restorative level of health services to selected populations. In KAM VI, you will present interdisciplinary perspectives of ethics and health care delivery and demonstrate knowledge of ethical theories and principles that form the bedrock for decision making in health administration.

Overall Learning Objectives

When you have completed this KAM, you will be able to:

1. Identify, define, and discuss ethical issues in the provision and delivery of health services;

2. Identify, compare, contrast, and critique at least three classical and contemporary ethical theories;

3. Analyze a health services issue by applying concepts, principles and framework for ethical reasoning; and
4. Demonstrate the application of ethical considerations to a concrete situation in your professional world.

Breadth Component
Health Services Delivery and Ethical Implications:
Health Administration

Learning Objectives

Note: The terms theories, philosophies, models and perspectives are often used interchangeably.

The purpose of the Breadth component is to help you gain a comprehensive understanding of the various ethical theories. To this end you will conduct a critical evaluation of selected ethical theories. Remember that the emphasis in the Breadth component is on theoretical knowledge. This requires a demonstration of the theoretical foundation of ethics and ethical analysis. You might include a discussion and critical assessment of selected theories and derivative principles highlighting the key concepts and assumptions on which they are constructed, compare and contrast the concepts across theories, and, then, conclude by providing a critical commentary on the merits of each of the selected theories.

Appendix A provides general assessment criteria for the KAM. As you evaluate each of the theories you will want to consider their relevance to various aspects of the provision and delivery of health services.

Upon completion of the Breadth component of this KAM, you will have a broad understanding of the types of ethical issues and concerns that emerge in the allocation and delivery of health care resources. You will also gain a renewed appreciation of the relationship between the ethical implications of health care delivery and the broader changing context within.

Learning Resources and Bibliographic Guidelines

The following learning resources are provided only as examples of the kind of literature that you should be accessing. Compile your own bibliographic references, which may include the following suggestions. From the bibliography compiled, select five or more texts and at least one contemporary refereed journal article that you wish to read for demonstration of competency in the Breadth component of the KAM. If you have difficulty compiling a bibliography or choosing relevant reading, consult with your
Faculty Mentor or KAM assessor. Illustrative Subject Headings provided in Appendix B, along with other related terms, may be helpful in conducting your literature search for this entire KAM. Other search tips are provided in Appendix C.


**Demonstration of Competence**

Using the knowledge resources covered, write a scholarly paper that demonstrates an advanced understanding of the classical and contemporary ethical theories. The paper must demonstrate comprehension, critical thought, and ability to compare, contrast, evaluate, and synthesize different theories, assumptions, concepts, ideas and elements encountered during your study of the literature. The expected length of the paper for the Breadth component is about 25-30 double-spaced pages. The paper is considered equivalent to 5 quarter credit hours of graduate work in a traditional program.
Depth Component
Health Services Delivery and Ethical Decision-Making:
Health Administration

Learning Objectives

The purpose of the Depth component is to help you analyze and explain a selected contemporary issue in health administration. For this analysis, use the theories, principles, and concepts examined in the Breadth component, along with available empirical studies on the subject (the basis for the annotated bibliography section of this component). Your task is to demonstrate your ability to use both theory and research to critically analyze and explain the health administration issue that concerns and interests you as a scholar-practitioner.

Ethical issues in health administration are all around us. Almost daily the media identify and question some aspect of decision making in the provision and delivery of health services. You may be responsible for such decision making in your daily life. For the Depth component, concentrate on a concrete health administration issue that is of professional and personal interest to you. Demonstration of scholarly quality requires the application of at least some of the theoretical models and principles discussed in the Breadth component, along with current studies on the selected issue.

You will acquire an in-depth understanding of a selected issue in health administration from the perspective of various ethical models. You will complete a comprehensive survey of the recent research-based literature addressing your area of focus. You will demonstrate your understanding by completing a written project integrating analysis of your readings with your own insights, observations, and suggestions.

Learning Resources and Bibliographic Guidelines

Read at least five books selected in consultation with your assessor. These works should focus on health administration and various ethical decision-making models. The following resources are offered only as examples:


**Demonstration of Competence**

Complete both of the following:

1. Compile an annotated bibliography of sources relating to the state-of-the-art ethical analysis of your area of focus in health administration. This bibliography must contain a summary and a critical analysis for a minimum of fifteen sources that are drawn primarily from current (last three years) research-based articles in scholarly/professional journals. Appendix F contains a list of journals that are potential sources for articles.

2. Write a scholarly paper that reflects an in-depth, research-based examination of a selected issue in health administration from the perspective of various ethical decision-making models. For ideas, you may wish to consult Appendix D.

Use the literary sources read for this KAM, including those in the annotated bibliography, as reference material for this assignment. The expected length of this paper is about 25-30 double-spaced pages. The total depth component assignment is equivalent to 5 quarter credit hours of graduate work in a traditional program.
Application Component
Ethical Theories Applied in Health Services: Health Administration

Learning Objectives

The purpose of this component is to provide a hands-on opportunity to apply ethical analysis to a concrete situation within your professional domain. You will demonstrate your ability to effectively incorporate current ethics theory and research into your professional practice.

Learning Resources and Bibliographic Guidelines

In consultation with your faculty assessor, select at least five sources. These should be directly related to your application project.

Demonstration of Competence

Complete one of the following:

1. Submit a major work that you have previously completed which demonstrates your mastery of application of theory- and research-based ethical models to health administration (e.g., master's thesis, curriculum design, professional project, a health services grant that you submitted for funding). In addition, submit a 7-10 critical analysis drawing on your acquisition of new knowledge through this KAM.

2. Individualized project option: You may choose to design and carry out an individual project. Your individual assignment must a) demonstrate a command of the literature of the KAM, b) demonstrate the application of theory- and research-based ethical models to health administration, and c) be equivalent in scope and rigor to a final project in a 4-credit doctoral seminar.

Some examples of possible projects are outlined in Appendix E, but feel free to develop your own. Regardless of the media you choose to document this application component, at least some portion must be in writing. The ideas and issues that you may choose to examine are virtually unlimited. However, the project should be designed in consultation with your assessor.
Appendix A
Criteria for Assessment

Assessment of your competence in this particular knowledge area will encompass three different modes—breadth, depth, and application—based upon demonstrated competence in a specific area in community health. You will be evaluated on the quality of your demonstration of the critical issues (breadth), your presentation of the research supporting the critical issues (depth), and the usefulness of this knowledge to your profession (application). Individual wants and needs, and the expectations of your faculty assessor, will determine the specific nature of your readings and assignments. While we have suggested general assignments for each section of the KAM, we encourage developing a unique approach. In all cases, the project chosen must be the equivalent of a final project in a five-credit doctoral seminar (four credits for the application component).

In addition, written work should be structured in a format acceptable to refereed journals. Although not required, consider developing your application project with a publication or presentation in mind. As your project will reflect a sufficiently high degree of originality, rigor, and quality anyway, a publication or presentation will greatly enhance your professional stature and credibility.

Walden requires documentation of your competence. Think about how you might provide this documentation. In all cases, you will support your work with adequate citations from the scholarly literature. If some of your work needs to be kept confidential, please be sure to clearly communicate this to your assessor. Assessors may require some form of independent evaluation of your work. In many instances, persons who provide an audience for your presentations may supply this evaluation, by colleagues, or clients.
Appendix B
List of Subject Headings for books related to Contemporary Issues and The Ethical Delivery of Health Services

Subject Headings are indexing terms assigned to a book to identify the content/focus of the document. In some cases, adding a subheading narrows the focus.

If you are searching an online catalog, carefully study the onscreen helps. Sometimes a short definition will be offered; sometimes related search terms will be listed. In addition, you may consult the large four-volume book, Library of Congress Subject Headings, for both definitions and related terms.

The commands for a Subject search in IUCAT, Indiana University's online catalog are:

    s subject heading       or       s subject heading--subheading

For example:

    s diffusion of innovation
    s diffusion of innovation--study and teaching

Capitalization is not important, but it is essential to include the " -- " where indicated. The acceptable commands for other online catalogs may differ slightly. Consulting onscreen helps for such information is worthwhile

Relevant Subject Headings and, where applicable, subheading are listed below. In many cases, the “guide” screen will also display subheadings for you to explore.

APPLIED ETHICS
APPROPRIATENESS ETHICS
BIOETHICS
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS
CONSEQUENTIALISM ETHICS
DECISION MAKING--MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS
DISCIPLINE
EMOTIVISM
ENDS AND MEANS
ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS
ETHICS
ETHICAL ABSOLUTISM
ETHICAL INTUITIONISM
ETHICAL PROBLEMS
ETHICAL RELATIVISM
MEDICAL ETHICS
MORAL
PHILOSOPHY
Appendix C

Index of Thesaurus Terms Suggested for Contemporary Issues and The Ethical Delivery of Health Services

The following database thesaurus terms for the Contemporary Issues and The Ethical Delivery of Health Services Knowledge Area Module are derived from Sociofile. This database may not be accessible through Walden University and Indiana University Library.

ETHICS
- CODES OF ETHICS use CODES OF CONDUCT
- ETHICS
- PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
- RESEARCH ETHICS

MORAL
- MORAL use ETHICS
- MORAL BEHAVIOR use MORALITY
- MORAL JUDGMENT
- MORAL PHILOSOPHY use ETHICS
- MORAL REASONING
- MORAL REASONING use MORAL JUDGMENT
- MORAL VALUES use MORALITY
- MORAL/MORALS

PHILOSOPHY
- SCHOOLS OF PHILOSOPHY use PHILOSOPHICAL DOCTRINES
- SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY
Appendix D
Ideas for Depth Demonstration

1. Define a population (e.g., grouped by age, diagnosis, geographic area) and identify critical issues related to the management of their health care. Describe the issues and identify implications (including ethical).

2. Define a population and present current standards of health care delivery analyzing the roles and responsibilities (including ethical) of providers in different levels of the continuum of care. Demonstrate how each discipline contributes to the quality of health care.

3. Present and analyze a critical issue related to health care ethics (e.g., right to die, patients' rights, informed consent, choice of refusing treatment/against medical advise, hospice care/maintenance of dignity and freedom from pain while dying, prolonging life/death, transfusion dangers/autotransfusions, surrogate pregnancy/artificial insemination, protection from communicable diseases, gene manipulation, cloning). Analyze the impact and influence of social changes upon the outcomes of this ethical issue in the management of health care. Present current thinking of experts in health services about the issue you have selected and propose valid solutions to the problems you have identified.

4. People are more knowledgeable about their health care and are more involved in health care decision-making than ever before. Discuss the modifications that have been made in health care as a result of this trend. Analyze the problems (including ethical) resulting from this trend and propose valid solutions.

5. Select a group of people, and identify and describe the new frontiers in the diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and health care management of this group. Discuss the role of lifestyle in health status and demonstrate how various views may influence a health care professional's decision making. Lastly, discuss the ethical implications.

6. Analyze prospects of increased self-care and its implications (particularly the ethical implications).

7. Analyze the trends of illness across cultural groups. Discuss the trends toward more degenerative and chronic diseases and away from more acute diseases. Project future changes based upon currently available data. Relate these changes to health care ethics.
8. Discuss the boundaries between the practice of medicine and the expanded roles of other health care providers, and document how these differences and overlapping areas influence health services and ethical decision-making.

9. Discuss the issues and impact (including ethical) of an imposed health services constraint such as diagnostic related groups (DRGs), problem oriented records, peer review processes, etc. Analyze how it has changed health care delivery. Identify the trends for the future.

10. Address the predicted changes in numbers of physicians and nurses, and analyze the influences that these trends may have upon the decision-making roles of each of the health care provider groups. Discuss the outcomes for health care. Analyze the trends toward establishing private practices for health professionals of all disciplines, and relate these changes to the effects upon health care decision making, competition, and litigation. Describe the ethical issues and the safeguards within each profession to prevent providers from practicing outside their respective licensed powers.

11. Analyze (including from an ethical perspective) the current insurance crises and relate them to the effects upon the public's use of health care providers and the providers' health care management. Extrapolate from current trends to the future changes.

12. Demonstrate how new technologies (e.g., interactive video, mobile phones, world-wide satellite communications, computer technology) affect interdisciplinary planning. Analyze how ethical issues such as confidentiality of communications affect health services delivery when new technologies are used for communication.

13. Analyze societal, clinical, regulatory, reimbursement, and ethical issues related to limited resources and increased demand for health services (e.g., organ transplants, artificial parts, animal to human transplants). Analyze the influences of a growing elderly population upon health care decision-making. Describe the changes in health services as a result of this group's needs. Present alternative scenarios for the future of health services with a growing population of very old (> 85 years) people who do not have adequate resources to provide for their needs.

14. Analyze the growing trends of groups who do not have the resources to pay for health services (e.g., the homeless, the transient, the indigent). Discuss how diagnosis and health services may be provided to all. Identify ethical issues regarding access to health services and propose solutions to the problems. Describe the epidemiological issues and trends affecting these groups.
15. Describe the insurance and legal crises, and the influences of litigation upon the provision of obstetrical care. Extrapolate from current trends and project social changes in this area. Discuss ethical issues of teenage pregnancies and suggest alternative solutions for the current problems.

16. Identify ethical issues related to our substance addiction prone society and demonstrate the influence of these issues upon health care delivery.

17. Describe current health care provider roles, and document how and why they have changed over the past twenty years. Demonstrate how and why the shift toward cooperative, collaborative, communicative interdisciplinary planning for provision of health services has occurred. Illustrate current pitfalls (including ethical) and suggest potential solutions to inter-provider problems.

18. Analyze (including from an ethical perspective) current models for the delivery of health services within a specified population. Identify their strengths and weaknesses, and project models that may be more care effective and cost effective for the future. Analyze (including from an ethical perspective) the strengths and weaknesses of the futuristic models and propose possible solutions to the problems.

19. Identify and discuss current financial issues in the delivery of health services and analyze how they are being addressed in your community. Analyze (including from an ethical perspective) the impact of health care corporations upon the delivery of care.

20. Discuss quality of care issues. Analyze current health care provider distribution problems. Identify and present the issues, the causes of current mal-distribution, and several alternative solutions to the current problems. Discuss components of the alternative delivery systems. Note: Be sure to incorporate the ethical dimension.

21. Identify underserved populations by the current health services delivery systems. Analyze (including from an ethical perspective) the critical issues and problems. Suggest valid models to provide services to these groups. Discuss (including from an ethical perspective) the strengths and weaknesses of each model and propose a marketing strategy to have them accepted and adopted.

22. Analyze role overlaps and gaps in provision of services for each of the major disciplines of health care providers. Show where and how competition may be modified to cooperation. Discuss the role of organized disciplines of health care providers. Illustrate how professional organizations influence public health policy and the ethical delivery of health services.
23. Select one critical legal issue related to the delivery of public health care and trace its development. Demonstrate the influence (including ethical) the issue has had upon each of the types of providers and upon the population of receivers of the health care. Suggest solutions to the problems you analyze.
Appendix E
Ideas for Application Demonstration

1. Describe and evaluate (particularly from an ethical perspective) current models for interdisciplinary health care. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of several different models and suggest solutions to current problems.

2. Videotape a course you are teaching that relates to interdisciplinary and ethical health services delivery models. Have your participants evaluate the effectiveness of your teaching.

3. Select a granting body (either federal, professional organization, or foundation) and write a grant proposing to provide a new interdisciplinary service for health care. Be sure to discuss the service's ethical ramifications.

4. Develop a research project that compares the outcomes (particularly ethical) of various health care decision-making models (e.g., participative versus directive health care).

5. Lead a professional group in a discussion of critical ethical issues related to the allocation of health care resources and health care decision making. Submit a written summary and analysis of the activity, a videotape of the proceedings, and a summary of the class evaluations submitted by the participants.

6. Use videotape to role play and micro-teach ethical, alternative health care delivery scenarios in selected situations. Submit a written summary and analysis of the activity, the goals and objectives, and the outcomes. Submit the videotape(s) and a summary of the learner evaluations.

7. Write a scholarly paper on interdisciplinary and ethical health care delivery for submission to a selected, peer-review, health services journal.

8. Attend a professional conference and write an analytical report of the various topics presented. Demonstrate how these topics are important from an ethical perspective to you, your clients, and your profession.

9. Describe and evaluate a health services delivery model with particular emphasis on the ethical considerations of that model. Evaluate the model for the perspective of the levels of analysis—macro, messo, and micro.
Appendix F
Selected Journals

Health Services: General

American Journal of Law and Medicine
Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine
Hastings Center Report
Health Affairs
Health and Hygiene
HSR: Health Services Research
Inquiry: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing
International Journal of Health Services
Journal of Health Economics
Journal of the American Medical Association
Milbank Quarterly
Medical Care
Medical Care Research and Review
New England Journal of Medicine
Qualitative Health Research

Health Administration

Administration and Policy in Mental Health
American Journal of Medical Quality
Computers in Healthcare
Frontiers of Health Services Management
Health Care Financing Review
Health Care Information Management
Health Care Management Review
Health Care Management Science
Health Care Strategic Management
Health Marketing Quarterly
Health Services Management Research
Healthcare Financial Management
International Journal for Quality in Health Care
International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care
Joint Commission Journal on Quality Improvement
Journal of Ambulatory Care Management
Journal of Evidence-Based Health Policy and Management
Journal of Health and Human Resources Administration
Journal of Health Care Marketing
Journal of Healthcare Management
Journal of Long Term Care Administration
Journal of Medical Practice Management
Journal of Medical Systems
Journal of Mental Health Administration
Journal of Nursing Administration