N.C. Nurse Aide I Curriculum

MODULE E
Laws and Ethics
Objectives

- Describe ethical conduct.
- Describe a resident’s rights in the nursing home.
- Give examples of abuse, neglect, and misappropriation of property.
- Explain the role of the Health Care Personnel Registry.
- Explain the role of the nurse aide in securing informed consent prior to providing care to the resident.
Laws

Are rules made by the government to help protect the public

- Person liable if laws not obeyed and person may be fined or jailed
- Two types – criminal and civil
Legal – Key Terms

Tort – a wrong committed against a person or property
  - Unintentional – did not mean to cause harm
  - Intentional – did mean to cause harm

Malpractice – giving care for which you are not allowed legally to do – example?

Negligence – actions or failure to act or give proper care, resulting in injury – example?
Assault and Battery

Assault – act of threatening to touch, or attempting to touch a person, without proper consent – example?

Battery – touching a person without consent – example?
Consent

The right to decide what will be done to the body and who can touch the body

- Written consent
- Verbal consent
- Implied consent

Which of the three can a nurse aide obtain?
Invasion of Privacy

Violation of right to control personal information or the right to be left alone

Examples?
Legal – Key Terms

False imprisonment – unlawful restraining or restricting a person’s movement

Defamation – false statement made to a third person that causes a person shame or ridicule, or ruins the reputation

- Written is libel. Example?
- Verbal is slander. Example?
Legal – Key Terms

Diversion of drugs – unauthorized taking or use of any drug

Fraud – an intentional deception or misrepresentation resulting in some unauthorized benefit
Importance of Laws

Tell people what they can and cannot do

Are written to protect the public from harm
Legal – Nurse Aide’s Role

- Understand range of function
  - Keep skills and knowledge current
- Keep resident’s safety and well-being in mind
  - Understand directions for use
- Follow facility’s policy and procedures
- Do no harm to resident or belongings
  - Report questionable practices
  - Know legal terms
Who are our Vulnerable Adults?
From What Must we Protect our Vulnerable Adults?

- Neglect
- Misappropriation of Property
- Abuse
Prevention of Mistreatment of Vulnerable Adult

- Care of personal property
- Review key terms and understand what must be reported to nurse
- Recognize signs/symptoms of neglect, misappropriation of funds, and abuse
- If abuse is observed by another health care provider, stop abuse and report immediately to nurse
- Report questionable practices
Neglect

- Signs and symptoms
- Examples
Misappropriation of Property

- Signs and symptoms
  - Examples
Physical Abuse

- Signs and symptoms
- Examples
Emotional or Psychological Abuse

- Signs and symptoms
  - Examples
Health Care Personnel Registry (HCPR)
Mistreatment of the Vulnerable Adult – Points to Remember

- Abuse is cause for immediate dismissal and posted on Nurse Aide Registry, if substantiated
- Not reporting abuse is aiding and abetting
Ethics and Code of Ethics

Key Terms
Basic Human Rights

- Are protected by the Constitution of the United States
- Right to be treated with respect, live in dignity, pursue a meaningful life and be free of fear
- Examples of infringement of these rights?
Resident’s Rights

- Residents also have legally protected Resident’s Rights
- OBRA identifies how a resident must be treated
- Provides a code of ethics
- Posted and provided in long-term care facilities

Who is an ombudsman?
Ethics – Importance

- Knowledge of right and wrong guides sense of duty and conduct
- Guides in providing quality care
- Governs actions of health care providers
- Vital to safety and well-being of residents
Ethics – Nurse Aide’s Role

- Use good judgment
- Keep information confidential
- Document accurately
- Follow plan of care
- Be honest and trustworthy
- Report abuse or suspected abuse
- Understand and respect Resident’s Rights
Ethics – Nurse Aide’s Role

- Report observations and incidents
- Show empathy
- Respect residents equally
- Provide quality resident care
- Protect privacy
- Treat all professionally
- Avoid stereotyping
- Safeguard property
- Respect values and beliefs
Ethics – Points to Remember

- What is ethical behavior?
- When do nurse aides use ethical behavior?
- Ethical behavior can vary
- We are all individuals who think differently
Ethics – Points to Remember

End of life decision making usually follows resident’s individual ethical principles

- Nurse aides must respect fact that resident has right to make own end of life decisions which may differ from nurse aide’s

- Resident has
  - Right to refuse intervention
  - Right to request everything possible
The End