



*(University of Choice)*

MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY & PARAMEDICAL SCIENCES  
YEAR FOUR TRIMESTER ONE  
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

MAIN EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: NCN 414

COURSE TITLE: ONCOLOGY AND PALLIATIVE CARE

DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

Time: 3.00pm to 6.00 pm

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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

All questions are compulsory

DURATION: 3 Hours

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

Please turn over.

**SECTION A: MULTIPLE ANSWER QUESTIONS (20 MARKS)**

1. An 80-year-old patient is receiving palliative care for heart failure. What are the primary purposes of her receiving palliative care (select all that apply)?
  - A. Improve her quality of life.
  - B. Assess her coping ability with disease.
  - C. Have time to teach patient and family about disease.
  - D. Provide care that the family is unwilling or unable to give.
  
2. The home health nurse visits a 40-year-old breast cancer patient with metastatic breast cancer who is receiving palliative care. The patient is experiencing pain at a level of 7 (on a 10-point scale). In prioritizing activities for the visit, you would do which of the following first?
  - A. Auscultate for breath sounds.
  - B. Administer prn pain medication.
  - C. Check pressure points for skin breakdown.
  - D. Ask family members about patient's dietary intake.
  
3. During admission of a patient diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer, you assess for which of the following as a key indicator of clinical depression related to terminal illness?
  - A. Frustration with pain
  - B. Anorexia and nausea
  - C. Feelings of hopelessness
  - D. Inability to carry out activities of daily living
  
4. You are visiting with the wife of a patient who is having difficulty making the transition to palliative care for her dying husband. What is the most desirable outcome for the couple?
  - A. They express hope for a cure.
  - B. They comply with treatment options.
  - C. They set additional goals for the future.
  - D. They acknowledge the symptoms and prognosis.
  
5. A patient has been receiving palliative care for the past several weeks in light of her worsening condition after a series of strokes. The caregiver has rung the call bell, stating that the patient "stops breathing for a while, then breathes fast and hard, and then stops again." You recognize that the patient is experiencing
  - A. Apnea
  - B. Bradypnea
  - C. Death rattle
  - D. Cheyne-Stokes respirations

6. What is the primary purpose of hospice?
  - A. Allow patients to die at home.
  - B. Provide better quality of care than the family can.
  - C. Coordinate care for dying patients and their families.
  - D. Provide comfort and support for dying patients and their families.
7. The hospice nurse identifies an abnormal grief reaction by the wife of a dying patient, who says
  - A. "I don't think that I can live without my husband to take care of me."
  - B. "I wonder if expressing my sadness makes my husband feel worse."
  - C. "We have shared so much that it is hard to realize that I will be alone."
  - D. "I don't feel guilty about leaving him to go to lunch with my friends."
8. A palliative care nurse is visiting with a dying patient. During the interaction, the patient is silent for some time. What is the best response?
  - A. Recognize the patient's need for silence, and sit quietly at the bedside.
  - B. Try distraction with the patient.
  - C. Change the subject, and try to stimulate conversation.
  - D. Leave the patient alone for a period.
9. The nurse is caring for a patient who has been admitted to the hospital while receiving home hospice care. The nurse interprets that the patient has a general prognosis of which of the following?
  - A. 3 months or less to live
  - B. 6 months or less to live
  - C. 12 months or less to live
  - D. 18 months or less to live
10. A 67-year-old woman was recently diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. Before the diagnosis, she was very active in her neighborhood association. Her husband is concerned because his wife is staying at home and missing her usual community activities. Which common end-of-life (EOL) psychologic manifestation is she most likely demonstrating?
  - A. Peacefulness
  - B. Decreased socialization
  - C. Decreased decision-making
  - D. Anxiety about unfinished business
11. A patient with terminal cancer tells you, "I know I am going to die pretty soon, perhaps in the next month." Which of the following is your most appropriate response?
  - A. "What are your feelings about being so sick and thinking you may die soon?"
  - B. "None of us knows when we are going to die. Is this a particularly difficult day?"
  - C. "Would you like for me to call your spiritual advisor so you can talk about your feelings?"
  - D. "Perhaps you are depressed about your illness; I will speak to the doctor about getting some medications for you."
12. For the past 5 years, Tom has repeatedly asked his mother to donate his deceased father's belongings to charity, but his mother has refused. She sits in the bedroom closet, crying

- and talking to her long-dead husband. What type of grief is Tom's mother experiencing?
- A. Adaptive grief
  - B. Disruptive grief
  - C. Anticipatory grief
  - D. Prolonged grief disorder
13. You have been working full time with terminally ill patients for 3 years. You are experiencing irritability and mixed emotions when expressing sadness since four of your patients died on the same day. To optimize the quality of your nursing care, you should examine your own
- A. full-time work schedule.
  - B. past feelings toward death.
  - C. patterns for dealing with grief.
  - D. demands for involvement in patient care.
14. Mr. Johansen died at the age of 71 after a myocardial infarction that he experienced while performing yard work. What indicates that Mrs. Johansen is experiencing prolonged grief disorder?
- A. She initially denied that Mr. Johansen died.
  - B. She talked about her husband extensively in the years after his death.
  - C. She stated that she expects him home soon on the anniversary of his death.
  - D. She cried uncontrollably and unpredictably in the weeks after her husband's death.
15. The family attorney informed a patient's adult children and wife that he did not have an advance directive after he suffered a serious stroke. Who is responsible for identifying end-of-life (EOL) measures to be instituted when the patient cannot communicate his or her specific wishes?
- A. Notary and attorney
  - B. Physician and family
  - C. Wife and adult children
  - D. Physician and nursing staff
16. Which statement made by the general nurse working in the hospice unit with a patient near the end of life requires intervention by the palliative care nurse?
- A. "The patient has eaten only small amounts the past 48 hours; will the physician consider placing a feeding tube?"
  - B. "The family seems comfortable with the long periods of silence."
  - C. "The physician ordered an increase in the dosage of morphine; I will administer the new dose right away."
  - D. "The blood pressure is lower this afternoon than it was this morning; I will communicate the changes to the family."
17. A 67-year-old man has been admitted to the hospital for a surgical procedure. During the admission process, the nurse asks whether he has a living will or a durable power of attorney. The patient asks, "What is a living will?" The best response by the nurse would

be which of the following?

- A) "A living will and a durable power of attorney are both advance directives."
- B) "A living will states your wishes regarding future healthcare if you become unable to give instructions."
- C) "A living will identifies a person who will make healthcare decisions in the event you are unable to do so."
- D) "I will tell a case manager that you would like additional information."

18. A nurse administers the wrong medication to a patient. As a result, the patient suffers an injury that requires a longer hospital stay. The patient can sue the hospital under the doctrine of which of the following?

- A) Battery
- B) False imprisonment
- C) Vicarious liability
- D) Statute of limitations

19. A nurse may be convicted of false imprisonment for which behavior?

- A) Putting the patient in fear of being harmed
- B) Touching the patient without his/her consent
- C) Putting a patient in restraints to prevent him from leaving
- D) Yelling and screaming at the patient for trying to get out of bed without assistance

20. Which of the following statements on Opioids being the foundation of pain management for moderate or severe pain is false?

- A. No organ toxicity, even at high doses and after prolonged use
- B. Side effects diminish over time
- C. Potential harmful side effects are avoidable when opioids are used correctly
- D. None of the above

### **SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (40 marks)**

1. State any five conditions that require palliative care (5 marks)
2. State three Scientifically validated pain scales (6marks)

3. Enumerate any five basic principles of palliative care communication, from a relational communication perspective (5 marks)
4. State three key barriers of communication in palliative care (6 marks)
5. The foundation of medical ethics is supported by four pillars, state three of such in palliative care (6 marks)
6. Explain three different types of Grief Reactions in palliative care (6 marks)
7. Explain the three risk factors of cancer causation (6 marks)

**SECTION C: LONG ANSWER QUESTION (40 marks)**

1. Describe the non-pharmacological treatment of cancer pain (20 marks)
2. Describe the role of a nurse in the care of patients with palliative care needs on home based care model (20 marks)