

## Errors in Health Care

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### OBJECTIVES/RATIONALE

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The integrity of health care is dependent upon providing individualized, competent, and safe care to clients. When human errors occur it is important to take appropriate actions. The student is expected to identify legal requirements, ethical behavior standards, and scope of practice for students in the health care delivery system.

TEKS 121.3 (c) 7E

TAKS ELA 1, 2, 3, 4

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### KEY POINTS

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- I. Terminology
  - A. Liable
  - B. Malpractice
  - C. Negligence
- II. Clients have the right to expect individualized, safe, competent, and beneficial care.
- III. Health care workers are legally responsible for the care given clients.
- IV. The scope of duties a health care worker may perform is defined by their level of training and education.
- V. Health care workers must understand their limits and scope of practice. It is malpractice to perform skills past the level of the health care workers education and training.
- VI. It is malpractice to neglect to do something that is considered common practice.
- VII. A “mistake” is not a malicious error.
- VIII. Errors may result in emotional, psychological, physical, and financial burdens being placed on all involved.
- IX. The proper handling of an error may prevent legal action.
- X. Prevention or errors is the best solution.

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### ACTIVITIES

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- I. Brainstorm errors that may be made in health care.
- II. Locate an article in a newspaper or magazine about errors in health care. Summarize the article, identify the error, and explain how the error could have been prevented.
- III. Role play clinical error scenarios including intervention strategies.

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### MATERIALS NEEDED

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Library resources, including Internet access if available

Clinical scenarios of situations involving errors

Role Play Rubric

Written Rubric

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### ASSESSMENT

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Role play Rubric

Written Rubric

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### ACCOMMODATIONS

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For reinforcement, the student will outline the process for reporting and documenting a mistake.

For enrichment, the student will prepare an education packet (using multi-media) to be presented to health care workers in an area health care facility on 'The Prevention of Errors in *Your Job*'.

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### REFLECTIONS

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