

# “Little Man: Ethics and Advocacy”

## Student Quick-Reference Guide

In NUR 111, you were introduced to the concept of ethics and the *Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements* (2015). We will build on that prior learning in this module. Over the next two class periods, you and your classmates will be participating in the activities outlined in this Quick-Reference Guide. Peruse the background material listed below, as well as your textbook, *before* class to refresh your memory on ethics, advocacy, and what each means to the nurse.

### *Background Material*

- ANA Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements
  - available from <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/>
- BBC article “Duty-Based Ethics”
  - available from [http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/duty\\_1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/duty_1.shtml)
- “Virtue Ethics”
  - available from <http://www.iep.utm.edu/virtue/>
- “Act and Rule Utilitarianism”
  - available from <http://www.iep.utm.edu/util-a-r/> (Discussion and section 1 of article)
- “Egoism” Section 2
  - available from <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/egoism/>
- “Teleological Ethics”
  - available from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/teleological-ethics>

### *Presentation Guide*

#### **Step 1: Activate Prior Learning**

Review your notes from NUR 111 on ethics and advocacy. Make sure you are prepared to discuss the following terms and provide examples of each.

- A. Virtue ethics.
- B. Duty-based ethics.
- C. Consequence-based ethics.
  1. Teleological approach
  2. Utilitarianism
  3. Ethical Egoism.

#### **Step 2: Watch “Little Man”**

- A. Movie run time: 1hr 52 min
  - a. This movie is about a newborn who was born 100 days early weighing just one pound. You are to consider the ethical issues involved in the delivery and care of

this newborn and the role of the nurse as advocate. As you watch the film, consider the Discussion/Reflection questions.

***Classroom Discussion/Reflection:***

1. What ethical issues did you identify surrounding Nicholas's conception and birth? (possible answers include: surrogacy, surrogate supplied inaccurate health history information, health issues identified in-utero before baby was born, utilization of resources for a child born so early, aggressive vs. comfort care, when should we say "when" or when is enough "enough"? ) This is not a debate; at this point in the lesson, students are just identifying ethical issues and how these issues were dealt with in the film.
2. How does the Code of Ethics guide your decision making in these critical situations?
3. What insight did you gain into the role of the nurse as patient advocate? How is this different in the NICU as opposed to an adult ICU? How did the NICU nurses act as advocates on Nicholas' behalf? Do you feel that the nurses/healthcare team failed to advocate for Nicholas in any instances?
4. How does the nurse deal with conflicting opinions regarding course of treatment?
5. To whom is the nurse *most* accountable: the patient, the family, or the physician? How does the nurse balance conflicting loyalties?

**Step 3: Mini-Paper Homework Assignment (Due Date \_\_\_\_\_)**

- A. You will write a 2-3 page mini-paper (APA style) discussing questions posed below. The paper should include all of the following:
  - a. Ethical dilemmas and decision-making models utilized are identified.
  - b. Are any virtues at risk? What are they? Whose? Why?
  - c. How does the Code guide the nurse's decision-making process?
  - d. What lessons can be learned from the scenarios illustrated in the movie?
  - e. Where the appropriate decision-making models utilized? Why or why not?
  - f. Bibliography includes at least 5 current (within last 5 years) sources including *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (2015)*.
- B. Please see the following website on APA formatting:
  - a. Purdue OWL APA Formatting and Style Guide
    - i. available from:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html)
- C. Grading: Grading Rubric (see attached)
  - a. Use the attached grading rubric for self-evaluation of your mini-paper.

**Step 4: Debate/Discussion (Debate Date \_\_\_\_\_)**

- A. You will discuss the questions from the mini-paper assignment and use the research findings from the mini-paper as the basis for their arguments.
- B. You will be assigned a team of 3-4 other students. Your team will be assigned a position and topic to debate related to an ethical issue identified in Step One. Ethical dilemmas can cause emotions to run high. Remember to be respectful when stating your position.

Assigned Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_

## Little Man: Ethics and Advocacy

### Mini-Paper Self-Evaluation Rubric

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations (15 points)	Meets Expectations (9 points)	Below Expectations (8 points)
Content	Responses to writing prompt demonstrate rational thought and insight using ethical theories and/or principles, as well as the ANA Code of Ethics.	Paper is somewhat rational and briefly mentions ethical theories and/or principles, and cites the ANA Code of Ethics.	Paper is unfocused and fails to include ethical theories or the ANA Code of Ethics.
Identification of Ethical Issues and Advocacy	Identifies multiple ethical issues illustrated in the movie, including family conflicts, end-of-life decision making, conflicts within the medical team, and discusses the role of the nurse as advocate.	Identifies some ethical issues, but misses the more complex issues.	Fails to identify ethical issues or imagines issues that are not based on the facts seen in the movie.
Viewpoint	Describes the viewpoints of all parties involved: parents, nurses, and physicians.	Considers viewpoints of some parties involved in the case and ignores others.	Does not acknowledge the viewpoints of any of the parties involved in the case.
Critical Thinking Skills Utilized to Make Decision	Arrives at balanced decision taking into account the viewpoints of all involved and the ethical principles that guide their actions.	Arrives at decision based on limited consideration of the roles and viewpoints of those involved.	Arrives at a decision based on personal opinion. Decision proposed is not practical or realistic, acceptable, or ethically justifiable.
Consequences Identified	Considers positive and negative consequences of the chosen decision for the patient, family, and healthcare team.	Some positive and negative consequences are proposed for the chosen decision.	No positive or negative consequences are proposed.

Timeliness	Paper submitted before due date.	Paper submitted at due date.	Paper submitted after due date.
Format	No punctuation, spelling, or grammatical errors; paper is 2-3 pages in length, formatted APA style, with bibliography following.	Minimal punctuation, spelling, or grammatical errors. Paper is mostly completed within the 3 page limit, with minimal APA formatting errors.	Multiple spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. Multiple APA formatting errors. Paper rambles and is in excess of 3 page limit. Paper lacks bibliography.
References	Bibliography includes more than 5 current (within last 5 years) references in APA format. No plagiarism used.	Bibliography includes 5 current (within last 5 years) references in APA format. Plagiarism not detected.	Bibliography has less than 5 references, references not current, or paper lacks bibliography. APA format not followed. Plagiarism may be detected.
Writing Skills	Paper follows coherent sequence of ideas and leads to justifiable conclusion. Paragraphs are well structured with appropriate transitions.	Sequence of ideas loosely linked to conclusion. Paragraphs are well structured, but not connected with transition sentences.	Conclusion does not arise from the concepts in the paper. Paragraphs lack appropriate structure or transitions.

Rubric guidelines adapted from American Nurses Association. (n.d). *Guide to the Code of Ethics for Nurses: Development, Application, and Interpretation* Faculty Pak. Retrieved March 22, 2018, from <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/faculty-pak/>