

Social Work Ethics and Pain Management

What are Ethics? According to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary: It is the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation; set of moral principles or values; the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group

Why Are We Concerned About Ethics? Ethics provides us with standards and guidelines for how we live our lives. They provide us with standards and guidelines for how we conduct ourselves in our work. They provide us with standards and guidelines for evaluating our profession. They provide us with standards and guidelines for evaluating our colleagues' behaviors. They help us to do the "right thing".

Why is it important to understand pain and pain management? Pain is often misunderstood and highly subjective. Chronic pain becomes central in one's life. Pain relief becomes the most important aspect of life and is often misunderstood by health care professionals.

- ⌚ Can appear to be attention seeking
- ⌚ Can appear to be drug seeking
- ⌚ Can appear to be psychological
- ⌚ Often nothing physical shows up as the cause of pain

This course reviews causes of chronic pain, and gives the practitioner some guidelines for assisting clients in principles of pain management.

This course fulfills the Michigan Social Work Licensing Board's requirements for licensure renewal.

Course Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. Participants will be able to identify 3 ethical dilemmas in their work
2. Participants will be able to demonstrate a model for ethical decision making
3. Participants will be able to list 3 elements of conflict between personal values and professional ethics
4. Participants will be able to define chronic pain
5. Participant will be able to identify 2 differences between physical pain and psychological pain
6. Participant will be able to list 4 key parts of a pain management plan

Learning Materials:

The instructor will supply handouts of the PowerPoint presentation used in this course. Lecture and discussion will be the main learning activities along with the use extensive of small group activities.

Assignments:

Participants are encouraged to actively engage in dialogue with the instructors and other participants during interactive segments of the course.

Evaluation:

There will be an opportunity for the participants to complete an evaluation of the course and the instructor. Depending on the requirements of the hosting organization, there may be a short post-test of the material at the end of the seminar.