

AUGUST 2025

MCQs may be of 'single correct answer' or 'multiple correct answer' format. Where the question states that more than one answer is correct, choose more than one of i, ii, iii or iv (anything from two to all answers may be correct), and then select the correct combination from answers a, b, c or d. Where the question states that only one answer is correct, mark the single answer that you think is correct.

Irregular appointment of the NHREC: Implications for legitimacy and the path forward for South Africa's health research ethics guidelines

1. The Minister of Health appoints members to the NHREC without publishing a call for nominations in the Government Gazette, instead relying solely on an internal Department of Health notice. Which of the following best describes the legal implication of this action?
 - A. The appointments are valid because the Minister retains wide discretion under the National Health Act.
 - B. The appointments are invalid because statutory requirements of transparency and public participation were not followed.
 - C. The appointments are irregular but still valid unless challenged in the Constitutional Court.
 - D. The appointments are valid provided that the nominees meet the qualifications listed in the Act.
2. Which of the following best explains why the irregular appointment of the NHREC prejudices stakeholders such as researchers, institutions, and the public?
 - A. They were deprived of the chance to comment on the draft Ethics Guidelines.
 - B. They were denied the constitutionally protected opportunity to nominate or scrutinise potential council members.
 - C. They lacked access to the NHREC's internal deliberations and minutes.
 - D. They were bound by international bioethics guidelines rather than domestic ones.

Practical guidance in understanding the nuance of benefit sharing and what this means for South African health research ethics committees: Part 2

3. Which of the following is a primary objective of the Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act (IPRA) in the context of benefit sharing?

- A. To prohibit individual benefit-sharing for all health research participants.
 - B. To ensure innovations from publicly funded research primarily benefit the South African public.
 - C. To regulate the use of non-human biological resources in research.
 - D. To manage traditional knowledge of Indigenous communities.
4. Under section 60(4) of the National Health Act (NHA), which of the following is permitted for a donor of human biological material?
 - A. Receiving non-compensatory rewards such as gifts.
 - B. Receiving reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in participation.
 - C. Selling donated biological materials to a research institution.
 - D. Receiving collective community benefits such as Infrastructure.
 5. The Indigenous Knowledge Act (IKA) requires researchers using Indigenous knowledge to:
 - A. Submit all benefit-sharing agreements to the Minister of Health for approval.
 - B. Obtain a licence from the National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office (NIKSO) and an approved benefit-sharing agreement.
 - C. Ensure that no monetary benefits are given to indigenous communities.
 - D. Submit all Intellectual property disclosures to the Office of Technology Transfer.

Denying the right to healthcare: South Africa's unemployed doctors at the centre of this crisis

6. Is the following statement true or false?
 "The right to healthcare is a fundamental human right, specifically enshrined under the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the Republic of SA." (True/F)
7. Choose the correct option about healthcare in SA:
 - A. The healthcare system in SA has seen a decrease in medico-legal claims for medical negligence and malpractice over the last decade.

A maximum of 3 CEUs will be awarded per correctly completed test.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read the journal. All the answers will be found there.
 2. Go to <https://members.samedical.org/> to answer the questions.
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- B. Section 27(2) of the Bill of Rights serves as both an enabler and a limitation to the realisation of the right to access healthcare.
- C. In SA, the public sector provides healthcare to the masses, with a doctor to patient ratio on par with the WHO recommendations.
- D. In SA there is no duty on the government to use existing resources effectively and rationally to progressively realise healthcare rights.

8. Choose the correct statement about the impact of corruption on healthcare delivery:
- A. Corruption has no measurable effect on healthcare outcomes.
- B. Corruption contributes to the employment of unqualified personnel.
- C. Corruption is only a concern in private healthcare settings.
- D. The Constitution permits limited corruption in essential services.

9. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects the ethical implications of prolonged doctor unemployment?
- A. It is a necessary consequence of market forces.
- B. It undermines the dignity and professional autonomy of medical practitioners.
- C. It has no impact on the broader healthcare system.
- D. It is ethically justified if doctors are not willing to work in rural areas.

The universal declaration of bioethics and human rights – a provisional perspective on surrogacy introduction

10. What is the primary aim of the article?
- A. To propose national legislation banning surrogacy.
- B. To evaluate surrogacy using the UDBHR principles.
- C. To compare IVF clinics across continents.
- D. To defend commercial surrogacy as ethical.
11. Which UDBHR article is explicitly linked to protecting vulnerable groups such as economically disadvantaged surrogates and embryos?
- A. Article 3 (Human dignity and human rights).
- B. Article 8 (Vulnerability and personal integrity).
- C. Article 12 (Cultural diversity and pluralism).
- D. Article 15 (Sharing of benefits).
12. What is the ethical paradox identified in the article?
- A. Surrogacy is both legal and illegal.

- B. UDBHR supports and challenges surrogacy simultaneously.
- C. Surrogacy is only allowed in developing countries.
- D. IVF is banned but surrogacy is not.

Advancing gender equity in HPV vaccination: A rule utilitarian case for including boys in South Africa's national programme

13. Which of the following best reflects the rule utilitarian argument for including boys in South Africa's national HPV vaccination programme?
- A. It assumes herd immunity can only be achieved by vaccinating boys.
- B. It focuses solely on reducing cervical cancer incidence in females.
- C. It prioritises the individual's right to choose whether to be vaccinated.
- D. It seeks the greatest overall benefit by protecting all eligible adolescents.
14. From a gender equity perspective, the current HPV vaccination policy in South Africa is criticised because it:
- A. Disproportionately allocates resources to prevent HPV-related diseases in boys.
- B. Vaccinates boys but only in private healthcare settings.
- C. Excludes boys, perpetuating disparities in access to preventive healthcare.
- D. Includes both boys and girls equally in vaccination campaigns.

15. Which of the following public health benefits is most closely linked to a gender-neutral HPV vaccination approach?

- A. Protection of future generations through decreased HPV transmission.
- B. Reduced costs for individual vaccine recipients.
- C. Limiting vaccine availability to urban areas.
- D. Increased autonomy for parents in vaccination decisions.

In machina: A cursory consideration of artificial wombs and the South African ethico-legal landscape

16. Which core ethical principle is most directly engaged by the decision to use ectogenesis in place of natural gestation?
- A. Justice
- B. Beneficence
- C. Autonomy
- D. Non-maleficence

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17. In legal debates on ectogenesis, which issue is most relevant to international human rights law?

- A. Allocation of research funding
- B. Determining the duration of maternity leave
- C. The right to found a family and access reproductive technologies
- D. Patent protection for artificial womb devices

18. Which of the following best describes the article's position on regulating ectogenesis?

- A. It should be left entirely to market forces
- B. It should be banned in all jurisdictions
- C. It requires proactive, context-specific legal and ethical frameworks
- D. It should be regulated only after full ectogenesis becomes common practice

Ensuring public safety and professional integrity: The vital role of healthcare regulators in South Africa

19. Which of the following best describes the primary mandate of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) under the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974?

- A. To create employment opportunities for healthcare professionals
- B. To regulate professional conduct, education, and registration in the public interest
- C. To manage hospital infrastructure and procurement processes
- D. To negotiate remuneration packages for healthcare workers

20. In the case of HPCSA v Grieve, the court affirmed that 'unprofessional conduct' under the Act:

- A. Only applies to actions taken while providing health services.
- B. Is limited to criminal offences committed by practitioners..
- C. Encompasses unethical behaviour even outside the direct provision of health services
- D. Cannot be applied to financial matters involving patients.

21. Which of the following is NOT a core function of the HPCSA?

- A. Registration and licensing of qualified practitioners
- B. Setting and maintaining professional and ethical standards
- C. Approving and monitoring professional training programmes
- D. Designing career progression frameworks for all health professions

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