Chapter 6: Medicine and Ethics  
Study Guide Answer Keys

**VOCABULARY REVIEW**

1. advocate
2. euthanasia
3. ramifications
4. Introspection
5. Impaired
6. clinical trials
7. opinions
8. Veracity
9. duty
10. reparations

**SKILLS AND CONCEPTS**

**Part I: Making Ethical Decisions**

1. Gather relevant information
2. Identify the type of ethical problem
3. Determine the ethics approach to use
4. Explore the practical alternatives
5. Complete the action

*Answers to the scenario regarding Mr. Roberts*

1. Locus of authority
2. Cassandra and Janet
3. The sisters should discuss the situation and try to come to a mutual agreement that would match what they think their father’s wishes might have been. Some cases such as this go to court for decisions.
4. Ideally, the sisters will agree on their course of action.
5. By presenting all options to patients, they allow the patient or the patient’s family member to make his or her own decisions.

*Answers to the scenario regarding Dr. Patrick*

1. Distributive justice
2. Dr. Patrick
3. Dr. Patrick should weigh the benefits and drawbacks of the new cancer center and make a decision based upon his own personal beliefs about the need for the center. Dr. Patrick cannot control the actions that Dr. Adams will take.
4. Dr. Adams’ departure from the office could lead to an increase in revenue for Dr. Patrick. Additionally, another physician could be hired to take over Dr. Adams’ workload.
5. Seeking counsel from similar professionals may help to determine the appropriate course of action even when there are an equal number of pros and cons. Another person may suggest a certain course of action or bring up ideas that were not previously considered.

**Part IV: Ethics and the Medical Assistant**

1. Students should mention aspects such as professionalism, good communication skills, ability to keep confidences, trustworthy, ability to understand both sides of a conflict.

**Part V: Rights and Duties**

1. Neither
2. Right
3. Duty
4. Right
5. Right
6. Students should be able to provide several examples of times that rights or duties could be argued. For example, the right to own a gun may be invalid for a person with a criminal record. The right to life could be argued if a person has killed another person. The duty to provide care to an elderly parent could be argued if the parent and child have had no contact for a length of time.

Part VI: Confidentiality
1. Hallways, elevators, break rooms, lunch rooms, waiting or reception areas
2. Termination of employment
3. First, it is the law. As a result of HIPAA, statutes dealing with patient privacy have set strict penalties for breaches of the law. Patients have the right to expect that their information will be treated in a confidential manner. Sharing information is considered unethical unless it is necessary for the care and well-being of the patient.

CASE STUDIES
1. Today’s blood banks usually allow patients to place a sticker on their record that denotes whether the blood should or should not be used. Robert knows that his blood should not be used for donations, but he does not wish to be questioned about his refusal to donate blood. This method gives individuals who know that they have a reason for not donating blood a way to participate in company blood drives. Some blood banks may not use this method. Of course, Robert can simply refuse to donate without offering a reason. He certainly has the right to privacy.

2. Cameron should explain to Mrs. Rainer that she is obligated to report any information that might affect the patient’s health and well-being to the physician. It may be helpful for Cameron to offer to be with Mrs. Rainer when she discusses this with the physician, offering the patient some moral support. The medical assistant must keep her priorities in order and remain loyal to her employer. The relationship with the patient is important, but a medical assistant should never withhold information from the physician, even at the patient’s request.