NeuroTrace Study Guide

Domain: Domain IV – Professional Practice, Ethics & Legal Issues
Section: Ethics, Confidentiality & Professional Conduct
Style: Scenario-based, policy-aligned, exam-oriented

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1. Core Ethical Principles (Must Know)

Autonomy: Respect Patient Rights

- **Autonomy: Respect patient rights**
- Patients have the right to make decisions
- Respect patient choices
- Obtain informed consent
- Honor patient refusals

Beneficence: Act in Patient's Best Interest

- **Beneficence: Act in patient's best interest**
- Act to benefit the patient
- Promote patient well-being
- Provide quality care
- Advocate for patient needs

Nonmaleficence: Do No Harm

- **Nonmaleficence: Do no harm**
- Avoid causing harm
- Prevent injury or distress
- Use safe practices
- Stop procedures if unsafe

Justice: Fair and Equitable Care

- **Justice: Fair and equitable care**
- Treat all patients fairly
- Provide equal access to care
- Avoid discrimination
- Distribute resources equitably

Key Principle

- **Ethical practice underpins all EEG procedures**
- Ethics guide all actions
- Ethical principles are fundamental
- Apply ethics in all situations

Practical Application

- Apply ethical principles daily
- Make ethical decisions
- Respect patient autonomy
- Act in patient's best interest

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2. Confidentiality & Privacy

Protect All Patient-Identifiable Information

- **Protect all patient-identifiable information**
- Names, dates of birth, medical record numbers
- Clinical information
- EEG findings
- Any information that could identify a patient

Discuss Patient Data Only with Authorized Personnel

- **Discuss patient data only with authorized personnel**
- Only those directly involved in care
- Need-to-know basis only
- Follow facility policies
- Respect patient privacy

Secure EEG Records and Digital Files

- **Secure EEG records and digital files**
- Password protection
- Encrypted storage
- Secure transmission
- Proper disposal

ABRET Emphasis

- **Teaching materials must be de-identified**
- Remove all patient identifiers
- Remove dates and locations
- Remove unique details
- Prevent re-identification

Best Practice

- Protect all patient information
- Share only on need-to-know basis
- Secure all records
- De-identify teaching materials

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3. Informed Consent

Explain Procedure in Understandable Terms

- **Explain procedure in understandable terms**
- Use clear, simple language
- Explain what will happen
- Explain risks and benefits
- Answer patient questions

Respect Patient Refusal

- **Respect patient refusal**
- Honor patient decisions
- Do not coerce or pressure

- Document refusal appropriately
- Notify physician if needed

Document Consent Appropriately

- **Document consent appropriately**
- Written consent when required
- Verbal consent documentation
- Patient understanding confirmed
- Follow facility policies

Best Practice

- Explain procedures clearly
- Obtain appropriate consent
- Respect patient decisions
- Document consent properly

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4. Professional Boundaries

Maintain Respectful Communication

- **Maintain respectful communication**
- Professional tone and language
- Respectful interactions
- Appropriate boundaries
- Clear communication

Avoid Personal Relationships with Patients

- **Avoid personal relationships with patients**
- Maintain professional distance
- Avoid personal involvement
- Focus on professional role
- Respect boundaries

Do Not Provide Medical Advice or Diagnosis

- **Do not provide medical advice or diagnosis**
- Stay within scope of practice
- Refer medical questions to physician
- Do not diagnose conditions
- Do not provide treatment advice

ABRET Trap

- **Casual discussion of patient details is a breach of confidentiality**
- Even casual discussion violates confidentiality
- Must protect patient information
- No exceptions for casual conversation
- Always maintain confidentiality

Best Practice

- Maintain professional boundaries
- Communicate respectfully
- Avoid personal relationships

- Stay within scope of practice

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5. Social Media & Digital Conduct

Do Not Share Patient Information Online

- **Do not share patient information online**
- No patient information on social media
- No patient photos or details
- No discussion of cases
- Maintain privacy online

Avoid Posting EEG Images Without Authorization

- **Avoid posting EEG images without authorization**
- Requires proper authorization
- Must be de-identified
- Follow facility policies
- Respect patient privacy

Maintain Professional Online Presence

- **Maintain professional online presence**
- Professional behavior online
- Represent profession appropriately
- Avoid unprofessional content
- Protect professional reputation

Best Practice

- Never share patient information online
- Maintain professional online presence
- Follow facility social media policies
- Protect patient privacy always

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6. Ethical Dilemmas & Reporting

Report Unsafe or Unethical Practices

- **Report unsafe or unethical practices**
- Document concerns
- Report to supervisor
- Follow facility policies
- Protect patient safety

Follow Institutional Policies

- **Follow institutional policies**
- Know facility policies
- Follow reporting procedures
- Document appropriately
- Escalate when needed

Escalate Concerns Appropriately

- **Escalate concerns appropriately**

- Report to supervisor first
- Follow chain of command
- Document all actions
- Protect patient safety

Best Practice

- Recognize ethical dilemmas
- Report concerns appropriately
- Follow institutional policies
- Document all actions

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7. Common ABRET Exam Traps

Trap 1: Discussing Patient Cases in Public Areas

- **Reality:** Confidentiality must be maintained everywhere
- **Trap:** May discuss cases in elevators, cafeterias, hallways
- **Solution:** Discuss only in private, secure areas
- **ABRET focus:** Confidentiality in all settings

Trap 2: Sharing Identifiable EEG Data for Teaching

- **Reality:** Teaching materials must be de-identified
- **Trap:** May share EEG with identifiers removed but rare details included
- **Solution:** Complete de-identification required
- **ABRET focus:** Proper de-identification

Trap 3: Acting Beyond Scope of Practice

- **Reality:** Technologists have defined scope
- **Trap:** May provide medical advice or diagnosis
- **Solution:** Stay within scope of practice
- **ABRET focus:** Professional boundaries

Trap 4: Ignoring Institutional Protocols

- **Reality:** Institutional policies must be followed
- **Trap:** May ignore policies for convenience
- **Solution:** Always follow institutional policies
- **ABRET focus:** Policy compliance

Trap 5: Casual Discussion of Patient Details

- **Reality:** Any discussion of patient details violates confidentiality
- **Trap:** May discuss cases casually with colleagues
- **Solution:** Discuss only on need-to-know basis
- **ABRET focus:** Confidentiality requirements

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8. Case-Based Example

Scenario

Clinical Setting: Teaching conference preparation
Situation: Colleague shares EEG screenshots with patient identifiers removed but rare details included

Issue: Rare details could allow re-identification

Response: Advise further de-identification

Correct Action

- **Advise further de-identification before use**
- Remove rare or unique details
- Ensure complete de-identification
- Prevent re-identification
- Protect patient privacy

Teaching Point

- **De-identification must prevent re-identification**
- Removing identifiers is not enough
- Must remove unique details
- Must prevent re-identification
- Complete de-identification required

ABRET Application

- Given teaching material → ensure complete de-identification
- Given rare details → recognize re-identification risk
- Given patient information → protect confidentiality
- Must know de-identification requirements

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9. Exam Readiness Checklist

Use this checklist to verify your understanding:

- ☐ Can apply ethical principles (autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice)
- ☐ Can protect confidentiality (need-to-know, secure storage, de-identification)
- ☐ Can maintain professional boundaries (respectful communication, appropriate relationships)
- ☐ Can respond to ethical concerns (reporting, escalation, documentation)
- ☐ Understand that patient information is confidential
- ☐ Know that information must be shared only on need-to-know basis
- ☐ Recognize that teaching materials must be de-identified
- ☐ Know that casual discussion violates confidentiality
- ☐ Understand informed consent requirements
- ☐ Can identify ethical dilemmas
- ☐ Know how to report concerns appropriately
- ☐ Understand professional boundaries

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10. Internal Cross-Links

Standards

- **Documentation & Reporting:** Confidentiality in documentation
- **Patient Safety:** Ethical considerations in safety

Workflow

- **Consent Procedures:** Informed consent requirements

- **Patient Identification:** Privacy and confidentiality

Cases
- **Ethical decision scenarios:** Cases involving ethical dilemmas
- **Confidentiality scenarios:** Cases involving privacy issues

Quizzes
- **Ethics & professionalism MCQs:** Questions on ethics
- **Confidentiality questions:** Questions on privacy
- **Professional boundaries questions:** Questions on boundaries

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Study Tips

1. **Memorize ethical principles:** Autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice
2. **Learn confidentiality rules:** Need-to-know, secure storage, de-identification
3. **Know professional boundaries:** Respectful communication, appropriate relationships
4. **Understand consent requirements:** Informed consent, patient rights
5. **Remember the principle:** Ethical practice underpins all procedures
6. **Know the traps:** Casual discussion, incomplete de-identification, scope violations
7. **ABRET focus:** Expect questions on confidentiality, ethical boundaries, and professional conduct

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End of Study Guide

For additional practice, complete quiz questions tagged: ethics, confidentiality, professionalism, consent, privacy