

**Table 5: Instruments for learning ethics and law**

Instruments found useful	Physicians (%)		Nurses (%)	
	Juniors	Consultants	Staff nurses	Sisters-in-charge
Ethics journals	58	63	43	45
Books on ethics	58	52	33	40
General texts	60	78	25	25
Media (Newspapers/TV)	57	80	29	33
Workshops	74	56	33	25
Lectures (UG/CME)	58	59	47	50
Panel discussions	71	59	43	30
Case conferences	19	37	33	30

UG = Undergraduate lectures

CME = Continuing Medical Education lectures

Most of the respondents agreed to the importance of ethical knowledge, although one-tenth of the staff nurses did not think that it is important. Those respondents, who thought that the knowledge of ethics and law was unimportant, also responded that they never saw problems. Perhaps due to the poor awareness regarding ethics and ethical situations, many of these respondents would not have possibly recognized the problems at workplace.

Very few respondents had obtained their knowledge of ethics and law from a single source. It is also interesting to note that the source of knowledge of healthcare ethics and

law amongst junior physicians during training appeared to be less important than the experience at work, lectures and seminars and one's own reading (2). This shows that the curricular training regarding ethics and law pertaining to work is either inadequate or ineffective. Traditionally, healthcare personnel receive limited training in formal ethics even though their daily work involves direct and often crucial intervention in others' lives [17]. The teaching of medical ethics was introduced as a distinct entity into the medical curriculum of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies in 1991, but this teaching has been didactic in a lecture theatre setting [18].

**Table 4: Practice of ethics**

Issues in practice of medical ethics	Occupation	Disagree	Agree	Chi square	Cramer's V	p-value
Patient's wishes must always be adhered to	Physicians	43	23	4.0	0.15	p = 0.03
	Nurses	65	26			
Patient should be always informed of wrongdoing	Physicians	11	68	0.23	0.09	p = 0.17
	Nurses	7	79			
Confidentiality – not important	Physicians	82	1	11.2	0.26	p = 0.001
	Nurses	76	14			
Doctor should do best irrespective of patient's opinion	Physicians	67	10	8.0	0.22	p = 0.004
	Nurses	61	28			
Consent only for operations – not for tests and medications	Physicians	72	6	3.7	0.15	p = 0.04
	Nurses	74	16			
Close relatives should always be told about patient condition	Physicians	62	17	2.6	0.12	p = 0.07
	Nurses	60	29			
Children should never be treated without consent of parent	Physicians	13	70	0.78	0.07	p = 0.25
	Nurses	10	80			
Doctors & nurses should refuse to treat a violent patient	Physicians	71	7	5.9	0.19	p = 0.01
	Nurses	67	20			
If law allows abortion, doctors cannot refuse to do abortion	Physicians	83	3	3.2	0.13	p = 0.07
	Nurses	78	9			
If a patient wishes to die, he or she should be assisted in doing so	Physicians	81	2	1.9	0.11	p = 0.15
	Nurses	80	6			
If patients refuses treatment due to beliefs, they should be instructed to find another doctor	Physicians	66	11	1.4	0.09	p = 0.17
	Nurses	77	7			