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Unit 5: Speaking – Resolving Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing

Speaking Tip

When describing a clinical decision-making process or an ethical case, organise your ideas in a logical order. Use sequencing words such as first, next, then, after that, and finally to make your explanation clear, professional, and easy to follow.

Useful Vocabulary

You may use some of the following words in your recording:

- bioethical principles
- autonomy
- beneficence
- non-maleficence
- justice
- informed consent
- scope of practice
- confidentiality
- negligence
- patient advocate

Useful Expressions

- Healthcare ethics is...
- The first step in resolving a dilemma is...
- Nurses must respect...
- A patient advocate is someone who...
- One critical bioethical principle is...
- In my opinion, autonomy means...
- To avoid clinical negligence, nurses should...
- Maintaining confidentiality means...
- One thing I learned in this unit is...
- I think healthcare ethics is essential because...

Self-Assessment Checklist

After recording your audio, listen to it again and answer these questions:

- ☐ Did I speak for at least 2 minutes?
- ☐ Did I explain what healthcare ethics in nursing is?

- [] Did I describe the steps for making an ethical clinical decision?
- [] Did I use key bioethical and legal vocabulary from this unit?
- [] Did I speak clearly and use complete sentences?

Optional Challenge

Imagine you are a registered nurse presenting a complex case to a hospital Ethics Committee. Describe the clinical situation, explain the ethical dilemma involving patient autonomy versus non-maleficence, and justify the clinical decision your team should make.