

Transition Guide

Contemporary Issues in Healthcare Law and Ethics, Fourth Edition

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Contemporary Issues in Healthcare Law and Ethics, Fourth Edition, examines the most important legal and ethical issues in healthcare and presents essential information that will help you learn to identify and tackle potential legal problems.

Since the third edition was published 2008, healthcare law has changed significantly. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), is often described as the most significant change in health care law since 1965, when Congress established the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The legislation is very long and very complex, and it changes existing healthcare laws in many ways. Since the adoption of the ACA, many legal issues have arisen in regard to its implementation, interpretation, and constitutionality. Legal issues and requirements in the ACA are not limited to health insurance, and, therefore, those issues are addressed throughout the fourth edition.

New Issues around Affordable Care Act Addressed

Chapter 4

ACA's legal obligations for tax-exempt hospitals

Chapter 8

The impact of the ACA on the Medicare and Medicaid programs

- Development of new laws to address new types of problems in a changing healthcare system
- Development of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) under Medicare's Shared Savings Program

Chapter 10

Initiatives for reform of medical malpractice laws

Chapter 13

Mandated contraceptive coverage and limitations on federal funding for abortion in health insurance which is purchased through an exchange

Chapter 14

Chapters 14-16 in the third edition have been consolidated into an updated and more concise Chapter 14 in regard to the legal issues in healthcare cost containment.

Chapter 15

Health insurance provisions of the ACA and the 2012 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court

Additional Updates

In addition to the ACA, healthcare law has changed in many important respects since publication of the third edition. For example, topics such as:

- Permitting physician-assisted suicide
- Changes to the laws that protect the privacy of medical information

The fourth edition also places increased emphasis on the relationship between healthcare law and ongoing changes in the healthcare system. Specifically:

- When the healthcare system begins to undergo significant change?
- How do existing laws respond to that change?
- How do you promote that change?
- How do they interfere with or prevent that change?

Finally, this new edition expands the use of activity-based learning by adding additional resources to the text such as:

- Every chapter in the fourth edition (other than the three introductory chapters) includes a problem which applies the legal principles in that chapter to a specific set of facts.
- An accompanying instructor manual designed to facilitate discussion and learning, which also contains answers to study questions
- PowerPoint presentation for each chapter as a teaching aid
- Study questions at the end of each chapter