Ethical Issues in Long Term Conditions
Level 7 Module

Course content:
This module contributes to the development of knowledge and understanding of the ethical principles that should underpin clinical practice. There will be emphasis on ethical frameworks that can be applied to a range of common ethical dilemmas that healthcare professionals face in their day to day activities. Learners will have the opportunity to engage in debate and discussion of some selected clinical scenarios such as the denial of long term oxygen therapy to those who continue to smoke, truth telling and letting people die.

This module enables the learner to study ethical issues within the context of healthcare, and specifically in people with long term conditions. Through a series of formal presentations, lectures and self-directed study, learner will be able to articulate the rationale for a particular course of action. Clinical scenarios and personal reflection from learners will form the basis for debate and discussion. This course is validated by the University of Hertfordshire.

Module aims:
The aims of this module are to enable learners to critically evaluate some of the key elements/concepts in the field of bioethical theory such as autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice in relation to health care through application of these principles in a range of health-care settings.

Skills and attributes:
Successful learners will typically be able to:
1. Critically evaluate the four major ethical principles that underpin health care ethics.
2. Explore common ethical dilemmas and consider these within the context of national/local policy decisions and multi-disciplinary care.
3. Demonstrate complex analysis and synthesis of the relevance of bioethical principles in health and social care when resources are limited.

Knowledge and understanding:
Successful learners will typically be able to:
1. Utilise skills of advanced reasoning to critique materials from a range of sources and ethical perspectives, interpret ethical models and apply these to individual patients scenarios including end of life care.
2. Demonstrate conceptual understanding of ethical principles and show how these are used to implement patient centred care throughout the patient journey.
3. Demonstrate independent thought on the application of ethical theory to practice and construct a robust argument to defend a particular view or course of action.