

**CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA CHORCAÍ**

**Semester 1 Examinations 2010**

**Module Title: Professional ethics and Risk Management**

**Module Code: EDUC8003**

**School: Science**

**Programme Title: B.Sc. (Honours) in Herbal Science**

**Programme Code: SHERB\_8\_Y4**

**External Examiner(s): Dr J. Green & Prof. Elizabeth Williamson**

**Internal Examiner(s): Ms AM. Keaveney  
Mr E. Fitzgerald**

**Instructions:**

**Answer one question from section A, one question from section B and one question from section C**

**Duration: 2 hours**

**Sitting: December 2010**

**Requirements for this examination:**

**Note to Candidates:** Please check the Programme Title and the Module Title to ensure that you have received the correct examination paper.  
If in doubt please contact an Invigilator.

### **Section A (30 marks)**

1. Is there a need for an alternative ethical framework? Critically discuss how the practice of herbal medicine fits within the current principles of bioethics.
2. A patient (2 years of age) is brought for treatment by her mother with an acute ear infection. She has a history of recurrent ear infections for which she has received antibiotics from her GP. She has an appointment to see a consultant to discuss further treatments in four weeks. Her mother would like to avoid surgery if possible.

Critically discuss the ethical considerations in this case?

### **Section B (30 marks)**

1. 'Evidence based medicine is based on a strong ethical and clinical ideal – that it allows the best evaluated methods of health care to be identified and enables patients (and doctors) to make better informed decisions' – Kerridge, I *et al* (1998)

Critically evaluate the ethical issues raised in relation to research on herbal medicine and accumulation of scientific evidence to support effective clinical decisions (evidence based practice).

2. You are attending a module on research methodology as part of your continual professional development. During discussions the following question was raised  
- How can herbalists formulate different prescriptions for each patient, even for the same condition?

Critically discuss the relevant issues in relation to research on individualised and less standardised treatments and debate the ethical implications of these issues

### **Section C (40 marks)**

1. Discuss the inter-relationships between personal conscience, morality, ethics and the regulated legal environment in the governing of the practices of a complementary health professional.
2. Discuss the main factors you feel should be included in the code of ethics of an association of complementary health practitioners. Justify your answer taking account of the need to promote patient care, public confidence and regulatory compliance. Briefly comment on how the compliance with the code could be encouraged and monitored.