



The principles In Medical Ethics

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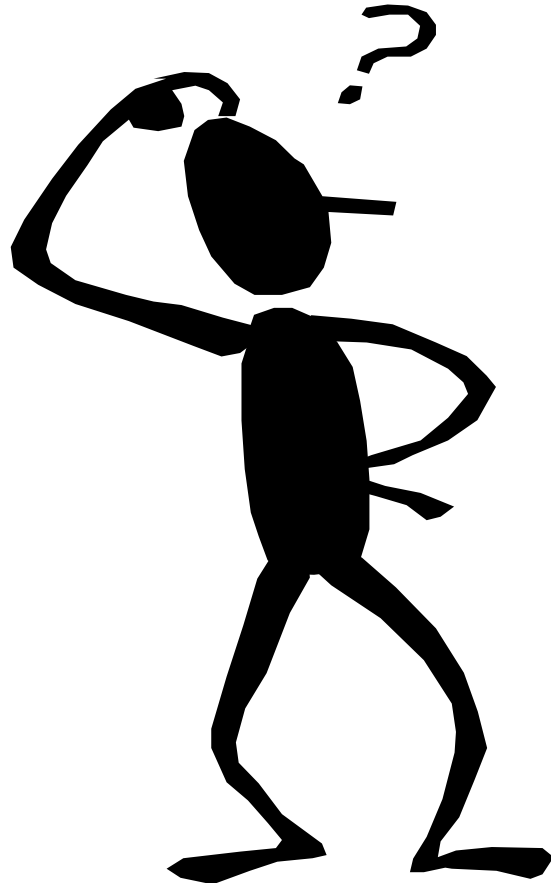
The content of clinical ethics includes

- specific issues such as truth-telling, informed consent, end of life care, palliative care, allocation of clinical resources, and the ethics of medical research.
- the study of the doctor-patient relationship, including such issues as honesty, competence, integrity, and respect for persons.

Components of Medical Ethics

- The Physician -- Patient Relationship
- The Physician -- Physician Relationship
- The relationship of the Physician to the System of Healthcare
- The Relationship of the Physician to Society

What Are Ethical Principles?



THE PRINCIPLES IN MEDICAL ETHICS

- The Principle of Non-Maleficence
- The Principle of Beneficence
- The Principle of Autonomy
- The Principle of Veracity
- The Principle of Confidentiality(or Fidelity)
- The Principle of Social Responsibility and Justice

The Principle of Non-Maleficence

- Requires that a procedure does not harm the patient involved or others in society.

Concern about:

- first do no harm
- sanctity of life
- be aware of the doctrine of double effect, where a treatment intended for good unintentionally causes harm.

The Principle of Beneficence

- Requires that the procedure be provided with the intent of doing good for the patient involved.
- Demands that health care providers develop and maintain skills and knowledge, continually update training, consider individual circumstances of all patients, and strive for net benefit.
- patient's welfare as the first consideration
- All healthcare providers must strive to improve their patient's health, to do the most good for the patient in every situation.
- what is good for one patient may not be good for another, so each situation should be considered individually.

The Principle of Autonomy

- People have the right to control what happens to their bodies.
- This principle simply means that an informed, competent adult patient can refuse or accept treatments, drugs, and surgeries according to their wishes.
- People have the right to control what happens to their bodies because they are free and rational.
- These decisions must be respected by everyone, even if those decisions aren't in the best interest of the patient.

The Principle of Veracity

- Truth telling
- Obligation to full and honest disclosure

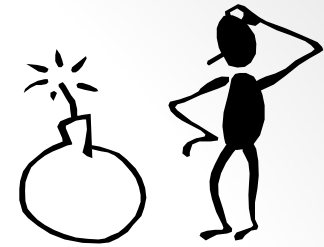
The Principle of Confidentiality

- Based on loyalty and trust
- Maintain the confidentiality of all personal, medical and treatment information
- Information to be revealed with consent and for the benefit of the patient
- Except when ethically and legally required
- Disclosure should not be beyond what is required

Justice

- Justice is a complex ethical principle, with meanings that range from the fair treatment of individuals to the equitable allocation of healthcare dollars and resources.
- Justice is concerned with the equitable distribution of benefits and burdens to individuals in social institutions, and how the rights of various individuals are realized.
- Allocating scarce medical resources.
- Be able to justify your actions in every medical situation.

Ethical Dilemma:



- Value conflicts, no clear consensus as to the “right” thing to do. A conflict between moral obligations that are difficult to reconcile and require moral reasoning.
- Situations necessitating a choice between two equal (usually undesirable) alternatives.

Ethical Issues in Modern Healthcare

In modern healthcare and research, value conflicts arise where often there appears to be no clear consensus as to the “Right thing to do.” These conflicts present problems requiring moral decisions, and necessitates a choice between two or more alternatives.

Examples:

- Should a parent have a right to refuse immunizations for his or her child?
- Does public safety supersede an individual’s right?

Ethical Questions

- Should children with serious birth defects be kept alive?
- Should a woman be allowed an abortion for any reason?
- Should terrorists be tortured to gain information possibly saving hundreds of lives?
- Should health care workers be required to receive small pox vaccination?
- Who should get the finite number of organs for transplantation?

Research Driven Ethical Issues

- Stem Cell Research
- Research Cloning
- Genome Project Results
- Fertility Research

Ethical Questions for Discussion

- Should organs for transplantation be able to be purchased?
- Should people suffering from a genetic disease, where future misery is predicted, be allowed to have children?
- Should individuals be allowed to use scarce healthcare resources when death is inevitable?

Thank You