HCS 281h: Ethics in the HIT Environment

In this lesson, you will be able to explain ethics in the healthcare environment.

Ethics in the HIT Environment

Ethics and HIT Professionals

Flashcards

Sorting Activity - Legal vs. Ethical

Practice Quiz

Ethics in the HIT Environment

Ethics can play a significant role in healthcare decision making. Ethics can guide healthcare workers in making decisions for which there is no codified law.
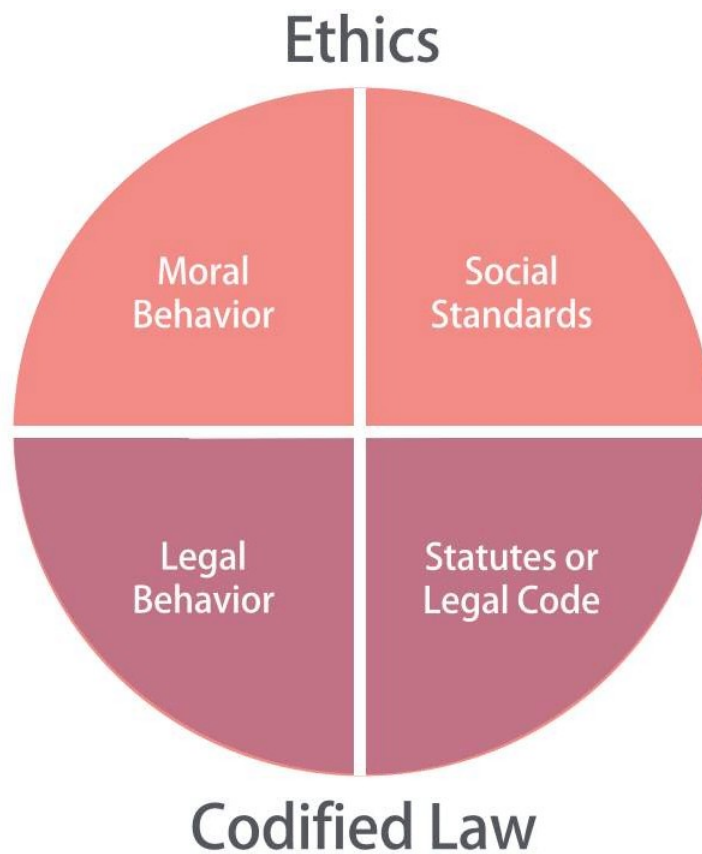

Image credit: CC–BY by Vivian Todhunter/CAST.
Image Alt–tag: Image of Ethics and Codi𝒊ed Law.

Ethics and Bioethics

Ethics is the code of moral principles and values that provide standards for good and bad behavior. Behavior is prescribed by social standards or moral values, and ethics comprise the shared standards of moral behavior that guide an individual or company. A decision that is ethical is both socially and morally acceptable to the community.

Closely related is the concept of *biomedical ethics*, or bioethics, which is the application of ethical principles to decisions in healthcare and medicine. Sometimes these decisions can have life-or-death consequences. [1] [2] For example, technological advances in medicine have led to many questions about the ethics of using technology to prolong life artificially. In one case, a widow without an advance directive suffered a severe stroke and was put on a ventilator. Her children and the medical team had to determine whether it was appropriate to apply life-sustaining measures if there was little possibility that the effects of the stroke could be reversed. [3]

Codified Law

How do ethics differ from codified law? Codified law represents the statutes or legal code adopted by a state or nation, such as the US legal code. With codified law, values and appropriate behaviors are written into the legal system and can be enforced through the court system. As such, appropriate behavior is prescribed by law. Ethical standards, on the other hand, are not codified, and people sometimes confuse ethical behavior with legal behavior.

Several states, for example, have passed laws limiting the amount and type of gifts physicians and other healthcare practitioners can receive from pharmaceutical and medical device companies. Because of the laws, there are legal consequences for healthcare practitioners who accept gifts such as free trips from companies whose goal is to expand the use of a certain drug or medical device. These state laws resulted from questions about the ethics of such gifts. [4]

In states that have no laws limiting gifts to physicians from pharmaceutical companies, the legality of such gifts is not in question. Nevertheless, accepting such gifts may be considered unethical behavior by many physicians.

Ethical Dilemma

An ethical dilemma is a decision in which each alternative has some undesirable consequence, and right or wrong cannot be clearly identified.

The Hippocratic Oath, an oath historically taken by physicians and other healthcare professionals, implies that healthcare professionals will make choices that benefit patients and will protect others from harm. However, medical care decisions often represent a conflict between what the health professional considers is in the best interest of the patient and respect for the patient's wishes.

Care decisions can also involve a conflict between the needs of the individual and the organization or between the organization and society. For instance, a hospital's decision to move to another area may be beneficial to the hospital's profitability, but it may have negative consequences for access to care and the economic well-being of the community.

According to information provided to patients at the Cleveland Clinic, some common ethical questions about patient care include the following:

- When should life-sustaining treatments such as breathing machines and feeding tubes be started, continued, or stopped?

- What should family members and healthcare professionals do if a patient refuses treatment that promises to be medically helpful?

- Who should make healthcare decisions for patients when they are unable to communicate or decide for themselves?

- What should patients do when they do not understand what professionals are saying and feel they are not offered the opportunity to participate in their own healthcare decisions? [5]

Knowledge Check

A homeless man suffering from diabetes and malnutrition is brought into a hospital. He refuses medical treatment. The emergency department staff determine that the man has a mental illness and is incapable of making decisions about his health. Is this an ethical dilemma?

Yes. The man has rights, and those rights should be respected; however, he also needs medical treatment to which he has a right, and therefore his case presents a medical dilemma for the hospital.

No. The staff should simply allow him to go home; by refusing medical treatment, he is not causing anyone else any harm, and he has the right to say no. He does not have a communicable disease.

Approaches for Guiding Ethical Decisions

Four approaches to ethical decision making are the utilitarianism, individualism, moral rights, and justice approaches. Understanding which approach is being used can help clarify the values and norms of the person or group making an ethical decision.
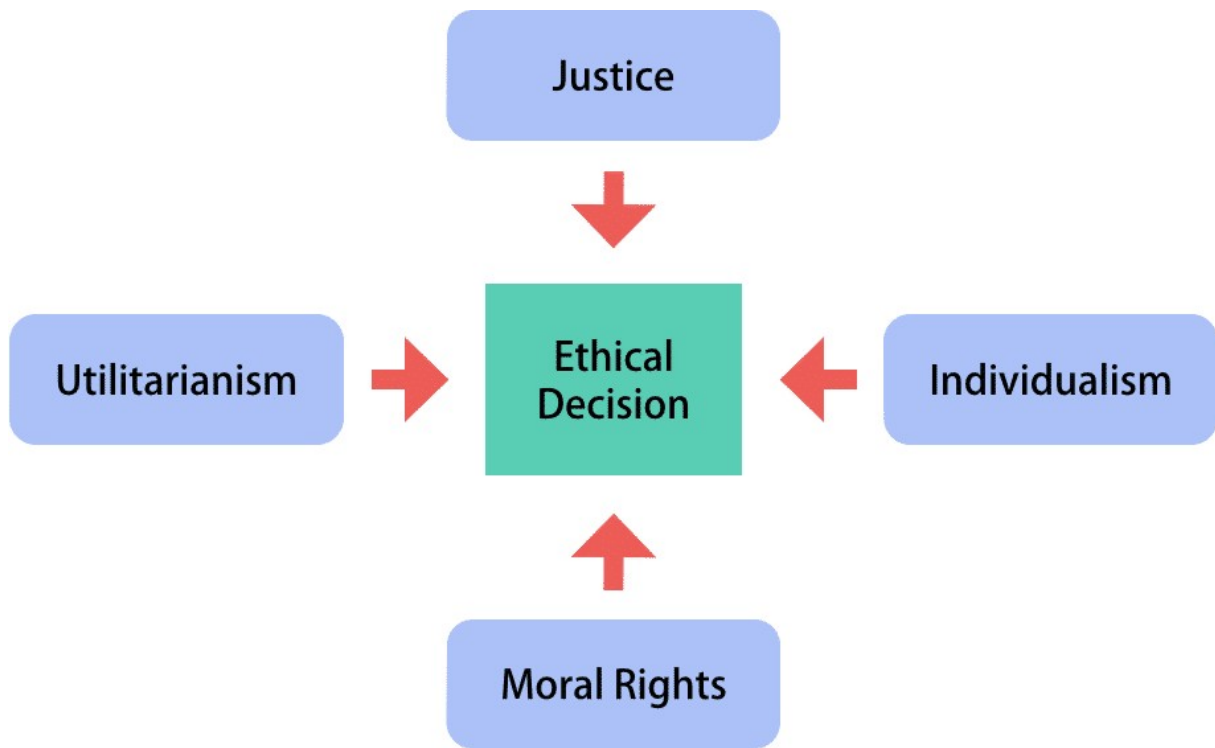
JUSTICE	INDIVIDUALISM	MORALRIGHTS	UTILIT

Under the justice approach, decisions must be based on standards of equity, fairness, and impartiality. Two types of justice are distributive justice and procedural justice. According to distributive justice, individuals who are similar in respects that are relevant to a decision should not be treated differently. For example, men and women should not receive different salaries if they are doing the same job.

In procedural justice, rules have to be administered fairly. That is, rules need to be clearly stated and consistently applied. One example in which the justice principle might apply is in determining which patients, out of the many patients on a waiting list, should receive organ transplants.

JUSTICE	INDIVIDUALISM	MORALRIGHTS	UTILIT

Under individualism, decisions are moral when they promote the individual's best long-term interests. The action to pursue is the one that produces the greatest ratio of good to bad for the individual.

With everyone pursuing their own self-interest, the greater good is served as people accommodate each other in seeking their own long-term interest. For example, lying and cheating for immediate gain will cause others to lie and cheat in return. Individualism is expected to lead to behaviors that fit standards of conduct that people want toward themselves.

JUSTICE	INDIVIDUALISM	MORALRIGHTS	UTILIT

According to the moral rights approach, human beings have fundamental rights and liberties. Therefore, any ethically correct decision respects the rights of those people affected by it. Fundamental rights include rights to privacy, free speech, due process, freedom of conscience, free consent, and health and safety. For example, the right to free consent requires informed consent before any medical treatment. Informed consent requires that health professionals provide adequate information to patients so that the patients can make informed decisions about what is best for them. Effective communication is critical in ensuring informed consent.

JUSTICE	INDIVIDUALISM	MORALRIGHTS	UTILIT

Under utilitarianism, moral behavior results in the greatest good for the greatest number of people. A decision maker is expected to consider the effect of each alternative on all parties and to choose the alternative that results in the greatest satisfaction for most people. An example of the utilitarianism approach is the decision to police people's smoking behavior in closed environments for public health reasons.

Knowledge Check

A state decides to extend Medicaid to 400,000 previously ineligible recipients instead of paying for high-cost, high-risk procedures such as liver transplants and bone marrow transplants. Which type of ethical concept does this decision exemplify?

Utilitarianism

Individualism

Moral rights

Justice

A whistle blower alerts the hospital's administration that a physician on the hospital's staff is operating while under the influence of drugs. This is an instance of what kind of ethical concept?

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Moral rights

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A court awarded Mrs. Jones disability payments after she testified that her 20 years of work in a cotton mill resulted in a case of brown lung, a chronic and sometimes fatal disease with symptoms similar to asthma and emphysema. This is an instance of what kind of ethical concept?

Utilitarianism

Individualism

Moral rights

Justice

A man whose family has a history of heart disease begins to exercise and lose weight to make himself healthier. He is displaying which type of moral behavior?

Utilitarianism

Individualism

Moral rights

Justice

Medical Ethics Committees

Modern healthcare organizations establish medical ethics committees to address complex ethical decisions. These interdisciplinary teams exercise their role through education, policy, and case consultation. Medical ethics committees generally consist of an interdisciplinary group of nurses, physicians, social workers, and chaplains.

The rapid growth of medical ethics committees came after legal cases such as the 1976 Quinlan case on the removal of life–support measures. Karen Ann Quinlan, a 21–year–old New Jersey woman, lapsed into a coma and was determined by her physicians to be in a persistent vegetative state without hope of revival. In a case that went to the New Jersey State Supreme Court, her parents sued to be able to have doctors remove her ventilator tube, which her father said was causing her pain. The court ruled that Quinlan's right to privacy exceeded the right of the state to keep her alive, and the tube was removed. Quinlan's father decided that she was not suffering from her feeding tube, which was not removed. Karen Ann Quinlan lived for another five years. [6]
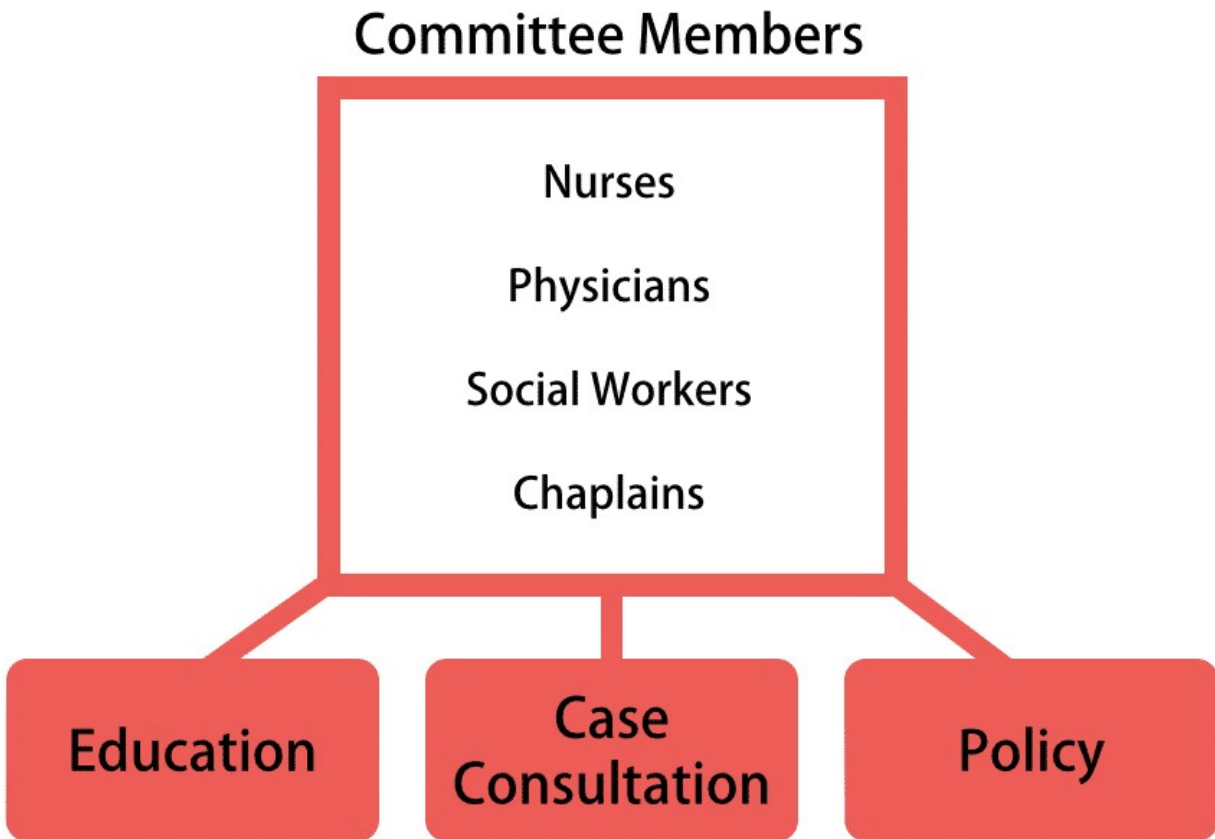
Committee Members

Nurses	
Physicians	
Social Workers	
Chaplains	

Education **Case Consultation** **Policy**

Ethics Committee Role

Medical ethics committees serve primarily in three areas:

- Education: The committee provides information on ethical questions, such as workshops on withdrawing life support.

- Policy: The committee proposes, analyzes, and reviews institutional policies on dificult ethical issues.

- Case consultation: The committee reviews dificult ethical cases and makes recommendations on alternative courses of action.

References/Sources

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Continue with other activities/quizzes...

Ethics and HIT Professionals

The general standards of ethical behavior and professionalism that apply to healthcare providers such as doctors and nurses also apply to health information technology (HIT) professionals, including health *informatics* [7] rofessionals. They are expected to adhere to ethical standards, set by professional organizations and based on a core set of ethical principles, as well as to meet the legal requirements of their profession set forth by federal, state, and local governments. [2]

What Is Professionalism?

Professionalism refers to behaving in accordance with generally accepted ideas of appropriate conduct within a specific profession. For HIT professionals working with healthcare data systems, professionalism includes staying current with technological changes that affect how systems are used in healthcare. An example of professionalism in health informatics is becoming familiar with the ideas expressed in the ethical codes written by health informatics organizations. Another example is taking continuing education classes to maintain the skills necessary to perform work-related duties.

Sources of Ethics Standards

As in other healthcare fields, the ethical and professional standards of the HIT profession come from a variety of sources.

Professional Organizations

Major sources of standards are the codes of ethics written by health informatics and HIT professional societies such as the following:

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA): Members of this organization are involved with the management of health information, generally with clinical or public health data systems. [3]

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA): This organization includes informatics professionals who are involved with the science of informatics as applied to biomedicine and health. [4]

International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA): This organization serves as a bridge organization to bring together other organizations that support the improvement of

healthcare, bioscience, and medicine worldwide through the application of information science. [5]

Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS): This organization is focused on providing leadership for the adoption and use of information technology and management systems for improving healthcare. [6]

Federal Agencies

Divisions of the federal government such as the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) have added to the body of knowledge about appropriate practices and are sources of ethics and professional standards. [7]

Laws

A back-and-forth interaction takes place between the ethical ideals, professional standards, and legal requirements that apply to HIT professionals. The privacy and security rules of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) are part of a law but are also important sources of professional standards. The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, or HITECH, widens the scope of privacy and security protections available under HIPAA and increases the potential legal liability for noncompliance. [2]

In addition, local, state, and federal laws set standards that may overlap, exceed, or even conflict with ethical duties.

Four Ethical Duties of Health Informatics Professionals

The various professional organizations that set standards for how health informatics professionals perform their work have generated ethical standards, or duties, that can be summarized into four general categories. Although specific to health informatics professionals, the ethical duties apply equally well to other HIT professionals.

The four ethical duties of health informatics professionals are to

1. Representing Credentials Accurately

One of the ethical duties in the AHIMA code of ethics is the obligation to accurately represent one's credentials. Similarly, the IMIA code of ethics says, "Except in emergencies, health informatics professionals should only provide services in their areas of competence; however, they should always be honest and forthright about their education, experience or training." [5] For example, informatics professionals should not pad their résumés by overstating their education, experience, or capabilities. They should not take on projects they are not qualified to perform—not even when, as often happens, employers or others expect them to be able to provide services outside the scope of their specialized training. In addition, they should correct any inaccuracies that may occur. These duties are owed to employers, patients, and the general public.

2. Protecting Privacy, Confidentiality, and Security

Both AHIMA and IMIA place privacy in the number one position on their lists of ethical duties for health informatics professionals. According to several codes of ethics, the principle of respect for privacy means that health informatics professionals must keep patients' information both confidential and secure. Confidentiality requires that the informatics professional not improperly disclose information, and security requires that the professional take appropriate measures to protect the information from being inappropriately accessed by others.

In addition to protecting patient information, the duty to respect privacy includes an obligation to advocate for laws about protecting patients' health information. It also includes a duty to promote the values of confidentiality and security to colleagues.

3. Respecting Patients, Employers, and Coworkers

The AHIMA code of ethics makes a strong statement about the duties owed to others. It states that a health informatics professional should "respect the inherent dignity and worth of every person." [3]

The code provides guidelines to help clarify how this lofty ideal can be put into action. Its guidelines state that all people should be treated respectfully and equitably. The duty to respect the dignity and worth of each person includes many obligations to patients, coworkers, and employers.

Duties Owed to Patients
The duties of a health informatics professional to patients are based on the same four core ethical principles that apply to all healthcare professionals: respect for autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice. As stated in the IMIA code of ethics, the four general principles are defined as follows:

The principle of autonomy implies that all people have a fundamental right to self-determination. In the healthcare setting, respect for autonomy means that healthcare professionals must recognize that patients have the right to make their own treatment decisions based on their individual preferences and beliefs. Healthcare providers must not put excessive pressure on patients to make a particular choice or submit to treatments. The principle of respect for autonomy is the ethical basis for the concept of informed consent. Informed consent means that the patient knows, understands, and accepts the risks and benefits of treatment.

The principle of beneficence means that all people have a duty to advance the good of others as long as the nature of that good is in keeping with ethically defensible values. This principle simply means that healthcare providers should do things that benefit the patient. This includes both actions meant to prevent problems and actions to address problems the patient is already experiencing.

The idea of beneficence is commonly recognized as one of the main purposes of healthcare. Beneficence is applied at the level of individuals and the level of populations. For example, giving antibiotics to a patient with pneumonia applies the principle of beneficence at the individual level. Giving elderly patients the opportunity to be vaccinated against pneumonia applies the principle at a population level.

The principle of nonmaleficence is the principle that all people have a duty to prevent harm to others insofar as they can do so without undue harm to themselves. Nonmaleficence is the expectation that healthcare professionals will not intentionally injure a patient. Medical students learn the famous saying that doctors should "first, do no harm." There are two types of nonmaleficence acts: acts of commission and acts of omission. An example of an act of commission is giving a patient a drug for the sole purpose of harming the patient. Acts of omission might be less obvious. An example is intentionally withholding a drug from a patient who is expected to benefit from the drug.

The principle of justice is that all people are equal and have a right to be treated accordingly. Distributive justice is the idea that if resources are scarce, they will be allocated in a fair manner. How distributive justice should be implemented is controversial in our society. [5]

The AMIA code of ethics says that patients have the right to know about the existence of electronic records containing their personal medical data. It says informatics professionals should not mislead patients about how these data are used. They should truthfully answer all patient questions about their rights to review and revise their own medical data. In addition, informatics professionals should be helpful when a patient wishes to exercise those rights.

Informatics professionals should ensure that medical data are maintained in a secure, reliable, manner. Further, the code says that medical data should never be used for purposes "outside the stated purposes, goals, or intents of the organization responsible for these data." In addition, the data of all patients should be treated with equal care, respect, and fairness. These are just a few examples of the duties owed to patients. [14]

Duties Owed to Employers
According to the IMIA code of ethics, among the general duties that informatics professionals owe to their employers are competence, diligence, integrity, and loyalty. In addition, health informatics professionals must ensure that all processes are performed to the highest possible standards and that all requirements and standards regarding security are met. The code also says that informatics professionals should have systems for reviewing their processes and practices to make sure they are current and effective.

Duties Owed to Coworkers
In many workplaces, informatics professionals work with doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers who are their coworkers, not their employers. According to the IMIA code of ethics, healthcare providers have a right to depend on the technological skills of health informatics professionals to help them meet their own professional obligations to patients. Therefore, informatics professionals have an ethical duty to assist healthcare providers "insofar as this is compatible with the [health informatics professionals'] primary duty towards the subjects of the electronic records." [5]

The code lists practical examples of these obligations. They include ensuring that healthcare providers have timely and secure access to usable, high-quality electronic records. [5]

4. Responding to Unethical Practices

According to the IMIA and AHIMA codes of ethics, it is not enough to simply refrain from unethical behavior. Health informatics professionals have ethical duties to discourage others from unethical behavior, to correct ethical problems when they occur, and to expose the unethical practices of others.

Whistleblowers

People who report unethical or illegal practices are sometimes called whistleblowers. The obligation to report unethical practices can result in some challenging situations. The duty to report a coworker's unethical behavior can result in mental or emotional conflicts about difficult issues such as loyalty. It can result in retaliation, ranging from getting the cold shoulder from coworkers to loss of promotions or raises and even physical assault.

Many laws provide protection for people who report unethical practices. However, they apply only under certain circumstances, and proving retaliation may be difficult. [9]

Conflicts of Interest

Another aspect of professionalism is to avoid or report conflicts of interest. A conflict of interest arises when a person is faced with a situation in which a primary interest conflicts with a secondary motivation. Primary duties include ethical and legal requirements, such as the obligation to keep patient information private. Secondary motivations are personal interests such as the opportunity for financial gain.

A conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest. [10]

EXAMPLE

A Friend Asks a Favor

Imagine a situation in which patients are supposed to receive medical appointments in the order in which their information was placed in a database. A close friend of the scheduling clerk is far down on the list and asks to be moved up to an earlier appointment. In this situation, the clerk's primary duty is to treat all patients on the list fairly. However, the personal motivation of friendship provides a strong emotional pull in the direction of making an exception for the friend.

Any potential conflict of interest should be disclosed to appropriate parties. In this example, it might be appropriate for the clerk to disclose this conflict to a supervisor and assure the supervisor that the proper protocol will be observed.

Knowledge Check

Which of the following is not an example of professionalism?

Behaving ethically on the job

Gaining the technical ability to do a good job

Learning ethical codes

Setting and achieving aspirational goals

Health informatics professionals have no ethical responsibilities to healthcare providers who are not their employers. True or False?

True

False

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Continue with other activities/quizzes...

Flashcards

Confiict of Interest

A set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly infiuenced by a secondary interest.

1 of 27

Whistleblowers

People who report unethical or illegal practices

Principle of justice

All people are equal and have a right to be treated accordingly.

Principle of nonmaleflcence

The principle that all people have a duty to prevent harm to others insofar as they can do so without undue harm to themselves

Principle of beneflcence

All people have a duty to advance the good of others as long as the nature of that good is in keeping with ethically defensible values

Principle of autonomy

All people have a fundamental right to self-determination.

| 4 ethical duties of health informatics professionals | 1. Represent credentials accurately. 2. Protect patient privacy, including the related ideas of confldentiality and security. 3. Respect patients, employers, and coworkers. 4. Respond to unethical |

| AHIMA | American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA): Members of this organization are involved with the management of health information, |

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Professionalism

Behaving in accordance with generally accepted ideas of appropriate conduct within a speciflc profession.

Sources of Ethics Standards

Professional organizations, federal agencies and laws

Ethics

The code of moral principles and values that provide standards for good and bad behavior.

Biomedical ethics

Or bioethics, which is the application of ethical principles to decisions in healthcare and medicine.

Codifled law

Values and appropriate behaviors are written into the legal system and can be enforced through the court system.

Ethical Dilemma

A decision in which each alternative has some undesirable consequence, and right or wrong cannot be clearly identifled.

| Hippocratic Oath | An oath historically taken by physicians and other healthcare professionals, implies that healthcare professionals will make choices that benefit patients and will protect others from harm |

| Utilitarian Approach | Moral behavior results in the greatest good for the greatest number of people. |

| Individualistic Approach | Decisions are moral when they promote the individual's best |

long-term interests.

Moral Rights Approach

Human beings have fundamental rights and liberties.

Justice Approach

Decisions must be based on standards of equity, fairness, and impartiality.

Medical ethics committees serve primarily in three areas

Education, Policy, and Case Consultation.

Education Committee

The committee provides information on ethical questions, such as workshops on withdrawing life support.

Policy Committee

The committee proposes, analyzes, and reviews institutional policies on difficult ethical issues.

Case Consultation Committee

The committee reviews difficult ethical cases and makes recommendations on alternative courses of action.

Sorting Activity - Legal vs. Ethical

For the following statements, which would be considered primarily a legal issue, and which would be considered primarily an ethical issue? Sort Legal or Ethical for each option.
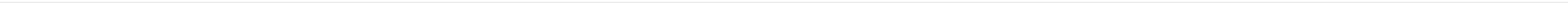
Legal

| Nurse determines patient is near death/removes the patient's breathing tubes | A physician bills Medicare for a specialized procedure that was not performed. |

Ethical

Physician offered tickets to a game for agreeing to meet with rep selling meds

Practice Quiz

A state decides to extend Medicaid to 400,000 previously ineligible recipients instead of paying for high-cost, high-risk procedures such as liver transplants and bone marrow transplants. Which type of ethical concept does this decision exemplify?

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Individualism

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A man whose family has a history of heart disease begins to exercise and lose weight to make himself healthier. He is displaying which type of moral behavior?

Utilitarianism

Individualism

Moral rights

Justice

A homeless man suffering from diabetes and malnutrition is brought into a hospital. He refuses medical treatment. The emergency department staff determine that the man has a mental illness and is incapable of making decisions about his health. Is this an ethical dilemma?

Yes

No

Unable to determine

A nurse determines that a patient is near death and removes the patient's breathing tube. Would this be considered primarily a legal issue or an ethical issue?

Legal

Ethical

A physician bills Medicare for a specialized procedure that was not performed. Would this be considered primarily a legal issue or an ethical issue?

Legal

Ethical

A physician is offered two tickets to a baseball game for agreeing to meet with a pharmaceutical representative who is selling a new medication. Would this be considered primarily a legal issue or an ethical issue?

Legal

Ethical

A staff member has contracted tuberculosis from an infected patient, and measures must be taken to prevent further infection. Would a medical ethics committee play a role?

Yes

No

Doctors and nurses in the intensive care unit have recently had to deal with multiple cases of severe stroke in which patients are not likely to recover. The staff is concerned about how to help families make decisions about the patients. Would a medical ethics committee play a role?

Yes

No

A new drug treatment program is now being offered by the hospital that will enable more patients to survive particular cancer. The treatment is very expensive, however. Would a medical ethics committee play a role?

Yes

No

Two siblings are unable to reach a decision about ending life support for their widowed father who fell and suffered a brain injury that has left him in a coma. Would a medical ethics committee play a role?

Yes

No

Which of the following is NOT an example of professionalism?

Behaving ethically on the job

Gaining the technical ability to do a good job

Learning ethical codes

Setting and achieving inspirational goals

Jason is a health informaticist doing research for a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that is hoping to eradicate malaria in Africa. Which organization would most likely benefit him in his work?

AHIMA

AMIA

IMIA

HIMSS

Lois is a health informaticist who is working for a hospital that is transitioning from one EHR system to another. Her work involves aligning clinical and IT standards with department workflow. Her co-worker, Susan, says they do not need to worry about the HIPAA requirements for the system because those requirements are handled by the HIT department. Is Susan correct?

Yes

No

Health informatics professionals have no ethical responsibilities to healthcare providers who are not their employers.

True

False

Healthcare professionals must get informed consent from patients before treating them. Is this implied by the ethical principle of autonomy?

Yes

No

Patients have the right to refuse treatment. Is this implied by the ethical principle of autonomy?

Yes

No

Patients' medical records must be kept confidential. Is this implied by the ethical principle of autonomy?

Yes

No

Treatments must be designed to maximize benefits and minimize risks. Is this implied by the ethical principle of autonomy?

Yes

No

In researching medical records for a hospital study, Ethan noticed that Dr. A performed an unusually high number of hysterectomies compared to other doctors in the hospital. Ethan is concerned and thinks he should bring the matter to the medical administrator; however, Ethan worries that he will somehow lose his job over the issue. Ethically, how should Ethan handle this situation?

He should immediately show his supervisor the data and then let go of the situation.

He should go to the hospital administrator and show him the data.

He should show the data to Dr. A and give him an opportunity to fix the situation.

He should give the data to his supervisor and follow up in a reasonable amount of time.

The code of moral principles and values that provide standards for good and bad behavior.

Ethics

Codified law

Ethical dilemma

Hippocratic Oath

Represents the statutes or legal code adopted by a state or nation, such as the US legal code.

Ethics

Codified law

Bioethics

Ethical Dilemma

The application of ethical principles to decisions in healthcare and medicine.

Ethics

Codified law

Bioethics

Ethical dilemma

A decision in which each alternative has some undesirable consequence, and right or wrong cannot be clearly identified.

Ethics

EthicalDilemma

Hippocratic Oath

Bioethics

An oath historically taken by physicians and other healthcare professionals implies that healthcare professionals will make choices that benefit patients and will protect others from harm.

Ethical dilemma

Codified law

Hippocratic Oath

Bioethics

A moral behavior results in the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

Utilitarian Approach

Individualistic Approach

Moral Right Approach

Justice Approach

Decisions are moral when they promote the individual's best long-term interests.

Utilitarian Approach

Individualistic Approach

Moral Rights Approach

Justice Approach

Human beings have fundamental rights and liberties.

Utilitarian Approach

Individualistic Approach

Moral Rights Approach

Justice Approach

Decisions must be based on standards of equity, fairness, and impartiality.

Utilitarian Approach

Individualistic Approach

Moral Rights Approach

Justice Approach

Individuals who are similar in respects that are relevant to a decision should not be treated differently.

Distributive justice

Procedural justice

Diverse justice

Injustice

Rules that have to be administered fairly.

Distributive justice

Procedural justice

Diverse justice

Injustice

This medical ethics committee provides information on ethical questions, such as workshops on withdrawing life support.

Education

Policy

Case consultation

The medical ethics committee proposes, analyzes, and reviews institutional policies on dificult ethical issues.

○

Education

Policy

Case consultation

The medical ethics committee reviews dificult ethical cases and makes recommendations on alternative courses of action.

○

Education

Policy

Case consultation

Behaving in accordance with generally accepted ideas of appropriate conduct within a specific profession.

Professionalism

Ethical

Determined

Passive

Members of this organization are involved with the management of health information, generally with clinical or public health data systems.

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)

Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

This organization includes informatics professionals who are involved with the science of informatics as applied to biomedicine and health.

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)

Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

This organization serves as a bridge organization to bring together other organizations that support the improvement of healthcare, bioscience, and medicine worldwide through the application of information science.

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)

Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

This organization is focused on providing leadership for the adoption and use of information technology and management systems for improving healthcare.

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International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA)

Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

AHIMA stands for

Assisted Health Information Management Association

American Health Information Management Assistance

American Health Informatics Management Association

American Health Information Management Association

AMIA stands for

American Medical Information Association

American Medical Informatics Association

American MedicalInformatics Assistance

Assisted Medical Informatics Association

IMIA stands for

International Medical Informatics Association

International Medical Information Association

International Management Informatics Association

International Medical Informatics Assistance

HIMSS stands for

Health Informatics and Management Systems Society

Health Information and Management Support Society

Health Information and Management Support Systems

Health Informatics and Management Systems Support

Which of the following is NOT an ethical duty of health informatics professionals?

Represent credentials accurately

Respect patients, employers, and coworkers

Respond only to ethical practices by others

Protect patient privacy, including the related ideas of confidentiality and security

Implies that all people have a fundamental right to self-determination.

Principle of autonomy

Principle of beneficence

Principle of nonmaleficence

Principle of justice

Means that all people have a duty to advance the good of others as long as the nature of that good is in keeping with ethically defensible values.

Principle of autonomy

Principle of beneficence

Principle of nonmaleficence

Principle of justice

The principle that all people have a duty to prevent harm to others insofar as they can do so without undue harm to themselves.

Principle of autonomy

Principle of beneficence

Principle of nonmaleficence

Principle of justice

The principle that all people are equal and have a right to be treated accordingly.

Principle of autonomy

Principle of beneficence

Principle of nonmaleficence

Principle of justice

Which code of ethics says that patients have the right to know about the existence of electronic records containing their personal medical data.

AHIMA

AMIA

IMIA

HIMSS

People who report unethical or illegal practices are sometimes called whistleblowers.

True

False

A conflict of interest is a

set of rules that indicate the risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest.

set of circumstances that create a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a secondary interest will be unduly influenced by a primary interest.

set of circumstances that create a risk that personal judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest.

set of circumstances that create a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest.