

# Allied Health Medical Law & Ethics



7/26/2016

## Module A

### Introduction to Medical Law and Ethics



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## Medical Law

- Laws are rules or actions prescribed by a government authority that have a binding legal force.
- Medical law addresses legal rights and obligations that affect patients and protect individual rights, including rights of health care employees
- Medical Practice Acts are laws pertaining to the way medicine is practiced in a particular state.

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## Ethics

- Branch of philosophy pertaining to moral principles and behavior
- Ethical behavior puts the common good before self interest
- Reason and logic are implemented to analyze problems and determine solutions
- Focuses on improving the welfare of people through moral practices

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## Medical Ethics

- Pertaining to issues specifically related to the practice of medicine
- Based on principles regulating the behavior of healthcare professionals
- Consideration of others influences how to act

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## Theories of Ethics

- Utilitarianism
- Rights-Based Ethics
- Duty-Based Ethics
- Justice-Based Ethics
- Virtue-Based Ethics

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## Ethical Behavior

- Selected virtues that influence ethical behavior:
  - Beneficence
  - Empathy
  - Fidelity
  - Humility
  - Perseverance
  - Tolerance

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## Interpersonal Ethics

- Selected virtues that influence interpersonal ethics:
  - Respect
  - Integrity
  - Honesty
  - Fairness
  - Compassion
  - Loyalty

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## Models For Examining Ethical Dilemmas

- Three-Step Ethics Model
- Seven-Step Decision Model
- Dr. Bernard Lo's Clinical Model

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## Bioethics

- Branch of applied ethics; refers to moral issues and dilemmas in medical research
- Principles to address moral dilemmas:
  - Principle of autonomy
  - Principle of beneficence
  - Principle of non-maleficence
  - Principle of justice

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## Suggested Reference

Fremgen, B.F., Medical Law and Ethics, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2016). Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN 978-0-13-399898-6

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