

## Allied Health Medical Law & Ethics



7/26/2016

### Module E.1

#### Ethical and Bioethical Issues in Medicine



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## Ethical Standards & Behavior



- **Ethics:** part of medical profession since the beginning
- **Hippocrates**
  - Statement of Principles called Hippocratic Oath
- Moral principles, practices, and customs of the medical profession

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## Codes of Ethics



- Basic premise--Behavior must match values!
- Summarize basic principles and behavior expected by all in that discipline
- AMA Principles of Medical Ethics

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## Codes of Ethics for Other Medical Professionals

- Nurses' Code of Ethics
- Code of Ethics of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA)

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## Bioethical Issues

- Issues resulting from advances in medical technology:
  - Cloning
  - Harvesting embryos
  - In-vitro fertilization
  - Organ and tissue donation

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## The Ethics of Biomedical Research

- **Ethics of the researcher**
  - Must abide by established standards for testing
- **Informed consent**
  - Necessary when patient involved in therapeutic research
- **Clinical Trials**
  - Not all clinical trials have a positive outcome.

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## The Ethics of Biomedical Research (Continued)

- **Conflict of Interest**
  - Researchers' interests are placed above interests of the patient
- **Randomized Test Trials**
- **Double-Blind tests**
  - Neither experimenter nor patient knows who is getting research treatment

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## Human Genome Project

- A research program by federal government
- Its purpose is to determine or "map" and sequence total number of genes
- Goal is eventual elimination or control of genetic diseases

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- **Cloning**
  - Group of genetically identical cells that come from a single common cell
- **Gene therapy**
  - Gene is spliced onto the DNA of body cells to control the production of a particular substance
- **Human Stem Cell Research**
  - Master cells in the body that can generate specialized cells

## Genetic Engineering

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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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