

Allied Health Medical Law & Ethics



7/26/2016

Module A.3 The Healthcare Environment



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Today's Health Care Environment

- Increased life expectancy
- Technological discoveries
- HMOs
 - Preventative care and patient education
- Government legislation
- Fixed-payment plans
- Third-party payers

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Managed Care

- Managed Care Organization (MCO)
- Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)
- Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)
- Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO)

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Federal Assistance Programs

- **Medicare**
 - Health care coverage for elderly or seriously disabled
- **Medicaid**
 - Health care coverage for the indigent
- **Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs)**
 - Classifies each Medicare patient by illness into a category

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Ethical Considerations of Managed Care

- Some physicians will not treat Medicare patients
- Must provide minimum standard of care to everyone
- Patients must be fully informed of consequences of obtaining health care elsewhere

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Types of Medical Practice

- Solo practice
- Partnership
- Associate practice
- Group practice
- Professional corporation

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Medical Specialty Boards

- Seek to improve quality of medical care
- Encourage physicians to further education and training
- Evaluate candidates who apply and pass exam
- Board-certify those who pass

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Conscience Clause

- Employees may have a moral or religious objection to assisting with certain procedures (sterilization, abortion)
- Employee cannot be discriminated against under the state's statute

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Suggested Reference

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

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Credits

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