

Allied Health Medical Law & Ethics



Module E.1 Ethical and Bioethical Issues in Medicine



7/26/2016

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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, 5th edition (2016). Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN 978-0-13-399898-6

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Credits

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