

Allied Health Medical Law & Ethics



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

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Credits

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