



# MEDICAL ETHICS


Lec no: 1 & 2

File Title: Subject 1 (intro)

Done By: Shahd alsaeed


وَقُلِّمْنَا رَبِّ زَيْنَتِي عِلْمًا





Ethics is about avoiding harm and setting norms, values and principles intended to govern medical ethical conducts.

The main topics: (in this file)

- 1) Providing a good standard of care
  - 2) The importance of sticking to the ethical standards in health and medical care
  - 3) Systems of human social behavior
  - 4) Primary and secondary socialization.
- 

# Medical ethics in general:

- Simple medical standards have been maintained by the global medical profession for more than 4000 years
  - Things that shaped and developed the ethical standards in medicine:
    1. Hippocratic oath, the holy quran, the islamic legacy and the bible
    2. Cultures, traditions and social morality
  - Avoid harming the patient
- “If you can’t help your patient don’t harm them.”
- The responsibility of a physician stretches beyond the individual to society

- Morality is social norms that distinguish between right and wrong in human conduct
- The foundation of medical ethics is that the doctor patient relationship is based on mutual trust
- Doctors are expected to have:
  1. High standard of medical abilities
  2. High ethical behavior
- Ethics is a branch of philosophy that:
  1. Defines what is good for the individual and society
  2. Establishes the nature of obligation or duties that people owe themselves and one another.
- Ethics is the moral reasoning of action



## What is required from a physician based on medical ethics:

- Do what is best for the patient
- The patients' interests come before the physician's interests
- Protect and defend human dignity and the patients' rights

## Factors that are essential for good communication:

1. Trust
2. Accountability
3. mutual respect
4. Fair medical care

# The importance of adhering to ethical standards in health and medical care:

- Ethical standards promote the aim of medical care: To alleviate suffering and minimize errors
- Medical care is built on the communication between medical workers and patients and/or their families
- Ethical standards will help build public support for medical care if they trust the equality and integrity of those programs
- Medical and health care typically involves different medical workers from a variety of disciplines
- Ethical standards promote important moral and social values.





# Important morals and social values that are promoted by ethical standards:

1. Social responsibility
2. human rights
3. patients' wellbeing
4. complience with the law
5. medical regulations
6. patients' safety

These morals and social values can facilitate a pleasant environment for the patients and workers

# Factors that affect human behavior:

1. Genetics / family
2. Social norms / values / Good or bad
3. Religion / faith
4. Attitude and personal preferences
5. Law
6. Ethics
7. Customs and traditions



# Socialization

The long process of inheriting and disseminating norms, customs and ideologies, provides an individual with the skills and habits necessary for participation within his/her own society.

or

The means by which social and cultural continuity are attained (transmission of values, beliefs, and attitudes)

- It's two types:
  - 1) primary socialization
  - 2) secondary socialization

# Primary Socialization:

The process of socializing in earlier stages (childhood)

- it is important because it is the basis for all future socialization
- Children learn attitudes, ethics, values, and actions
- mainly influenced by family and friends
- children absorbs the beliefs and values of the parents

# Secondary Socialization:

The process of learning what is the appropriate behaviour as a member of a smaller group within the larger society

- Takes place outside home with smaller changes than primary socialization
- Usually found in teens and adults
- Learning how to act in a way that is appropriate for the situation the person is in
- Internalization and absorption of values, ethics, and beliefs later in life



## **Ethics:**

A system or code of morals that provides a guide for daily living and establishes principles for conduct

- Without it life becomes a constant struggle of intrigue

## **Medical ethics :**

System of values common to medical profession and application of these values to the practice of medicine

- it is the standard of behavior by which physicians evaluate their relationship with their patients, colleagues and society.

**Patients are entitled to good standard of practice and care from their doctor.**

**The essential elements of a good standard of care and practice are:**

1. Professional competence
2. Expertise
3. A good relationship with patients and colleagues
4. Observance of professional ethical obligations



## **Goals of medicine are:**

1. Promote health (health education)
2. Prevent disease (vaccination)
3. Relieve symptoms
4. Treat or cure disease and prevent disability
5. Prevent death
6. Improve function  
(rehabilitation/physiotherapy)
7. Educate and counsel patients about condition, prognosis and treatment benefits Vs. risks
8. Avoid harm



## **Why ethics become important?**

- Conflicts of interest are getting more serious and complex
- High technologies bringing hopes of cure while creating an economic burden
- The ethical dilemmas of high-technology medicine and concerns about the quality of life
- A new and more specific code of ethics must be developed to meet the demands of social development and medical service
- The new code must integrate traditional medicine with modern values and principals