

# Medical Ethics

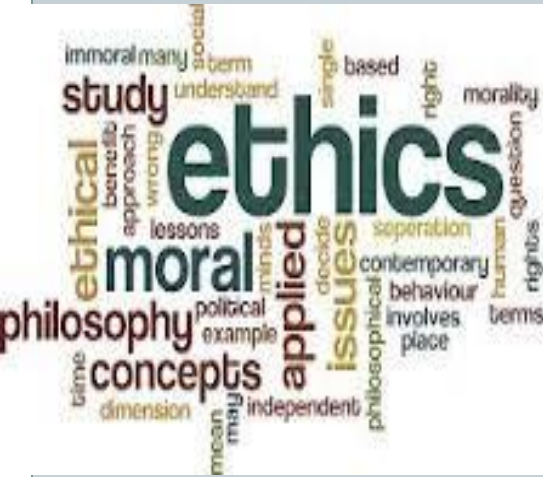
## Subject 2

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# Outline

- # Introduction: Duties & Responsibilities of Doctors
- # Good medical practice
- # Defining professional competence
- # Good Clinical Care
- # Maintaining trust and Professional relationships
- # Professionalism and Professional Attributes
- # Doctor's duties towards himself/herself
- # Doctor's duties towards his/her colleagues
- # Doctor's duties towards his/her profession
- # Doctor's duties towards his/her community

# Duties & Responsibilities of Doctors

- ❑ Being a doctor gives you certain rights and privileges.
- ❑ In return you must fulfill the duties and responsibilities of a doctor.
- ❑ The principles of good medical practice and the standards of competence, care, and conduct expected of doctors in all aspects of their professional work.

# Good medical practice

**Domain 1** Knowledge, skills and performance

**Domain 2** Safety and quality

**Domain 3** Communication, partnership and teamwork

**Domain 4** Maintaining trust



## Providing a good Standard of Practice and Care

I. All patients are **entitled to good standards of practice and care** from their doctors.

### Essential elements of this are:

- + professional **competence**;
- + good **relations** with patients (patient-doctor relationship) ,
- + **respect** for the patient's **autonomy** (think, decide & act);
- + good **relations** with colleagues; and
- + observance of professional **ethical obligations**.

## DEFINING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

It is *the habitual and reasonable use of* :

- *communication,*
- *knowledge,*
- *technical skills,*
- *clinical reasoning,*
- *values, and*
- *reflection in daily practice*

*for the benefit of the individual and community being served.*

Competence builds on a foundation of basic:

- ❑ **clinical skills,**
- ❑ **scientific knowledge,**
- ❑ **moral development.**



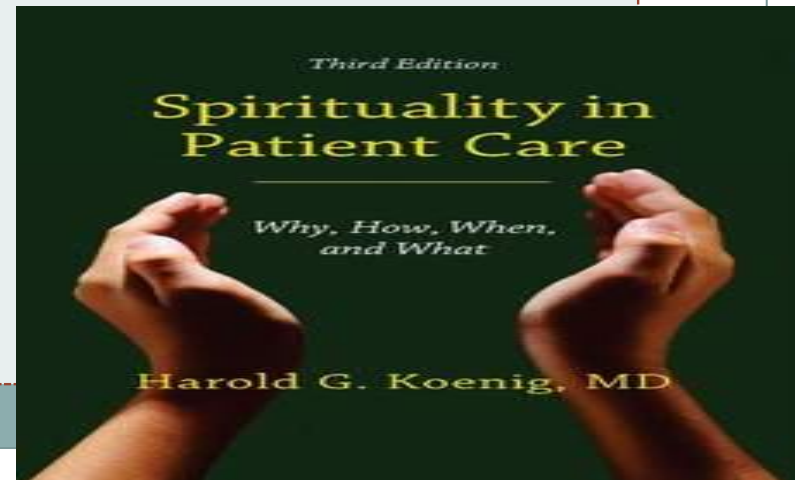
**ENHANCE YOUR  
CLINICAL SKILLS**

# Core Competencies

It is expected from the doctor to **obtain competency in the following six areas** to the level expected of a new practitioner:

## 1- Patient Care

Doctors must be able to provide **patient care** that is **compassionate, appropriate, and effective** for the **treatment** of health problems and the **promotion of health**.





## 2- Medical Knowledge

Doctors must demonstrate **knowledge** of established and evolving **biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences**, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

### 3- Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Doctors must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the **effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals**

Doctors are expected to:

- **communicate effectively with patients, families, and the public**, as appropriate, across a broad range of **socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds** ;
- **communicate effectively with physicians, other health professionals**, and health related agencies ;
- **work effectively as a member or leader** of a health care team or other professional group ;
- **act in a consultative role** to other physicians and health professionals; and ,
- **maintain comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records** .

# Before we start...where are we?



## 4- Professionalism

Doctors must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out **professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles** .

Doctors are expected to demonstrate:

- **compassion, integrity, and respect for others ;**
- **responsiveness to patient's needs that supersedes self-interest ;**
- **respect for patient privacy and autonomy ;**
- **accountability** to patients, society and the profession ;
- **sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population**, diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation( **no discrimination**) .

## 5- Practice-Based Learning and improvement (PBLI)

Doctors must :

- demonstrate the **ability to investigate and evaluate their care** of patients ,
- to appraise and assimilate **scientific evidence**, and to
- **continuously improve patient care** based on constant **self-evaluation and life-long learning** .

- using **quality improvement** (QI) methods, and implement changes with the **goal of practice improvement** ;
- Rely on evidence-based medicine.
- use information **technology to optimize learning**; and ,
- **participate in the education of patients**, families, students, residents and other health professionals .

## 6- Systems-Based Practice (SBP)

Doctors must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the context and system of health care and use resources effectively to provide optimal health care .

### Doctors are expected to:

- work effectively in various health care delivery settings
- coordinate patient care within the health care system relevant to their clinical specialty ;
- cost awareness and risk-benefit analysis in patient and/or population-based care ;
- work in interprofessional teams to enhance patient safety and improve patient care quality; and
- participate in identifying system errors and implementing potential systems solutions .

## II. Good Clinical Care must include:

- An adequate assessment of the patient's condition, based on the history and physical examination;
- Provide for appropriate investigations;
- Provide for appropriate treatment;
- Referring the patient to another practitioner, when indicated.
- Keep clear, accurate, medical records for the clinical findings, the decisions, and treatment given;
- efficient use of resources;



## III- Maintaining Good Medical Practice

### Keeping up to date

■ Doctors must **keep knowledge and skills up to date** throughout their working life.

They should take part regularly in educational activities, which develop their **competence and performance** and read the **medical journals**.

■ **Law** governs some parts of medical practice.

You must observe and keep up to date with the **laws and codes of conduct**.

## IV- Maintaining trust and Professional relationships

Successful relationships between doctors and patients **depend on trust**. To establish and maintain trust you must:

- Listen to patients and respect their views;
- Respect patient's **privacy and dignity**;
- Give patients the information **they request** about the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.

You should provide this information to those with **parental** responsibility where **patients are less than 18 years old**.

In principle the patient has the **right to know his diagnosis** and has **the right to keep his diagnosis confidential** even from his family.

➤ However, we recommend that caution should be exercised in **disclosing information** that is distressing to the patient.

The **patient's family** should be contacted, and the diagnosis discussed with them prior to its disclosure to the patient, **unless** the **patient has asked you not to discuss his diagnosis with anybody.**

➤ The patient should **understand** and **consents** to any intervention before starting;

➤ **Respect the right of patients** to be fully involved in decisions about their care;

➤ **Respect the patients right to decline treatment** or decline to take part in teaching or research;

➤ **Respect the right of patients to a second opinion;**

**Patient rights** encompass **legal and ethical issues** in the doctor- patient relationship, including :

- ❖ person's right to **privacy**,
- ❖ the right to **quality medical care** without prejudices,
- ❖ the right to make **informed decisions** about care and **treatment options**, and
- ❖ right to **refuse treatment**.



*Thank You*