Introduction to Medical Ethics

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THE MEDICAL ECOSYSTEM

- Enlarging Circle of Influence
SMC’S PHYSICIAN’S PLEDGE

“I solemnly pledge to:
– dedicate my life to the service of humanity;
– give due respect and gratitude to my teachers;
– practise my profession with conscience and dignity;
– make the health of my patient my first consideration;
– respect the secrets which are confided in me;
– uphold the honour and noble traditions of the medical profession;
– respect my colleagues as my professional brothers and sisters;
– not allow the considerations of race, religion, nationality or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient;
– maintain due respect for human life;
– use my medical knowledge in accordance with the laws of humanity;
– comply with the provisions of the Ethical Code;
– and constantly strive to add to my knowledge and skill;
– I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honour.”
MEDICAL ETHICS - definition and scope

_system of values common_ to the medical profession.

_systematic application of values_ concerning the practice of medicine.

_standards of behaviour_ by which the physician may evaluate his/her relationships with patients, colleagues and society.

_scope of medical ethics includes:

- development of ethical codes and guidelines
- promotion of ethical practice
- prevention of ethical breaches
- recognition of ethical dilemmas
- resolution of ethical conflicts
Components of Medical Ethics

• The Physician -- Patient Relationship
• The Physician -- Physician Relationship
• The relationship of the Physician to the System of Healthcare
• The Relationship of the Physician to Society
THE PRINCIPLES IN MEDICAL ETHICS

• The Principle of Non-Maleficence
• The Principle of Beneficence
• The Principle of Autonomy
• The Principle of Veracity
• The Principle of Confidentiality (or Fidelity)
• The Principle of Social Responsibility and Justice
The Principle of Non-Maleficence

- first do no harm
- sanctity of life
- calculated risk or risk benefit
The Principle of Beneficence

- do only that which benefits the patient
- patient’s welfare as the first consideration
- care consideration competence
The Principle of Autonomy

- right to information and self determination
- free and informed consent
- free will and accord - intentional participation in treatment
- respect and dignity maintained
The Principle of Veracity

• Truth telling
• Obligation to full and honest disclosure
The Principle of Confidentiality

• Based on loyalty and trust
• Maintain the confidentiality of all personal, medical and treatment information
• Information to be revealed with consent and for the benefit of the patient
• Except when ethically and legally required
• Disclosure should not be beyond what is required
The Principle of Justice and Social Responsibility

- Actions are consistent, accountable and transparent
- not to discriminate on age, sex, religion, race, position or rank
- greater good of society
- respect of the Law
- equity and distribution of burden & benefits
Conflicts of Ethical Principles

- autonomy
- veracity
- confidentiality
- dual obligations
- research
- family interest
- payer's interest
- paternalism
- justice
- beneficence
- nonmaleficence
Resolution of Ethical Dilemmas

• Principles
• Ethical codes
• Clinical judgement
• Reasoned analysis
• Ethical committees
• Ethical tests

• Declarations
• Oaths & Pledges
• Commonsense
• Debate
• Ethical Consults
• The Law
Introduction to Medical Ethics

• **CONCLUSION**

• The practice of medicine is rooted in the *convenant* of *trust* among patients, physicians and society

• The Physician is obligated to be a *healer* and a *professional*. This role is built on *expertise, ethics* and *service*

• Just as a Vet is expected to love animals, a Physician must have inherent *love* for humans and *Humanity*
Kob Khun Kap
Ramba Nandri
Terima kasih
Dank U wel
Shukran
Merci beaucoup
Thanks a million
Gracias
Arigato Gozaimasu