

# All India Institute of Medical Sciences Rajkot



## Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

e – Bulletin

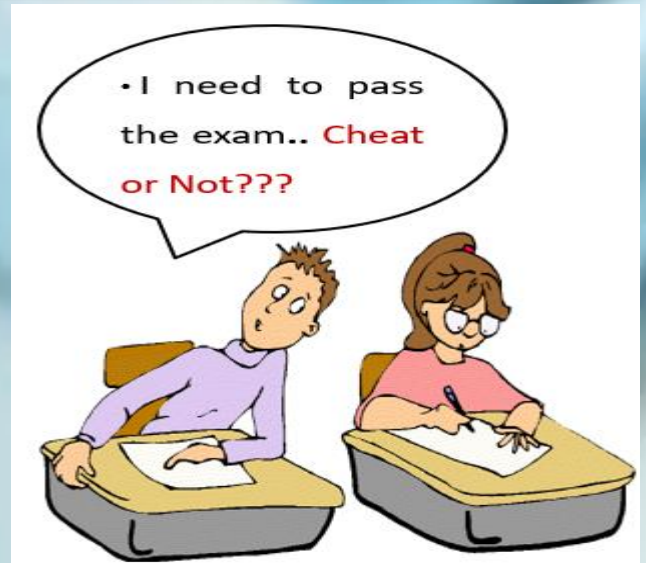
# “Panacea”

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# Ethics in Medical Practice



## What is Ethics??

The formal study of:

- What is right and wrong.
- The study of the bases or principles for deciding right and wrong.
- The analyses of the processes by which we decide what is right and wrong.

## Medical Ethics

A combination of moral principles and values that are applied to take judgements in medical education, practice, and research are termed as medical ethics

If we want to salvage the reputation and integrity of our profession, we certainly need to think and draw our own **"Lakshman Rekha"**



# A Short History of Medical Ethics

## 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC

the first code of medical ethics called as "**Formula Comitis Archiatrorum**" was published during the reign of the Ostrogothic King

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC:

Hippocratic Oath

Ishaq Rahawi wrote the first book written on medical ethics known as "**Conduct of Physician**"

## 18<sup>th</sup> century

Thomas Percival, coined the terminology of **medical ethics** and **medical jurisprudence**

## 1847:

The American Medical Association adopted **first code of ethics**.

## Top Most Ethical Issues in Medical Practice

1. Disagreement between patients/families and health care professionals about treatment decisions
2. Medical error
3. Withholding/withdrawing life sustaining treatment in the context of terminal or serious illness
4. Achieving informed consent & Ethical issues related to subject participation in research
5. Patient substitute for decision-making
6. The ethics of surgical innovation and incorporating new technologies for patient care

## How to Deal

Follow the Codes and Guidelines:  
The basic principle behind all ethical codes and guidelines is "**Respect for Life**".

### 1. Nuremberg Code (1947)

This landmark document developed in response to horrors of human experimentation done by Nazi Physicians and investigators on war Prisoners.



- Voluntary informed consent
- Likelihood of some good resulting
- Based on prior research (animal models)
- Avoidance of physical or psychological injury or harm
- Benefits should outweigh risks
- Proper experience of researcher
- Right to withdraw consent
- Research must stop if harm is resulting

## Nuremberg Code

**2) Declaration Of Helsinki:** is a set of ethical principles regarding human experimentation developed for the medical community by the World Medical Association (WMA).

- Declaration of Helsinki sets down the following prerequisites for biomedical research
  - 1) The research must be justified
  - 2) There must be detailed protocol
  - 3) All proposal must be submitted for review and approval to an independent ethical and scientific review committee



## Principal of Medical Ethics

### **AUTONOMY** THE DESIRE TO BE SELF DIRECTED



#### Autonomy:

-The patient has the right to refuse or choose their treatment.

•-Autonomy can be defined as the ability of person to make his or her own decision. This faith in autonomy is the central premise of the concept of informed consent and shared decision making.



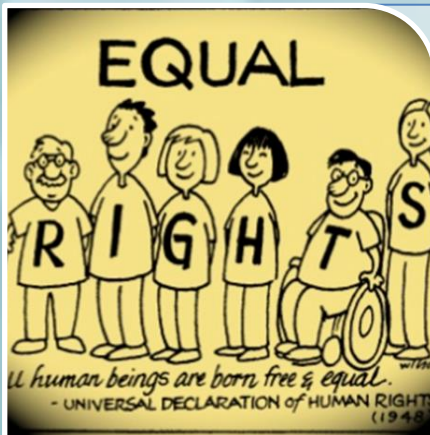
#### Beneficence:

A Practitioner should act in the best interest of patient



### Non maleficence/Do No Harm:

- This principle ensures that treatment or research ought not to produce harm
- Refrain from providing ineffective treatment or acting malice towards patients
- Negligence
- Misconduct



### Justice:

This refers to the need to treat all people equally and fairly

- We should strive to provide some decent minimum level of health care for all citizens, regardless of ability to pay

## Knowledge Creates CONFLICTS



In much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrows” (Ecclesiastics 1, 18)

- Avoid conflicts between doctors or two different branch practitioners.

## DUTIES OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS towards one another

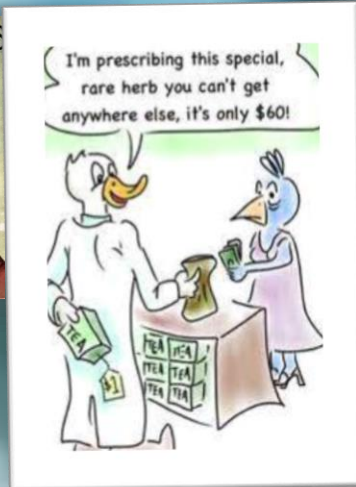
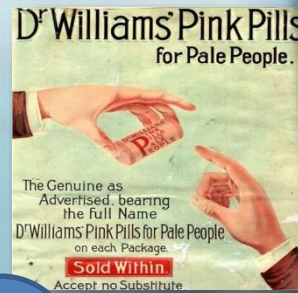
- Extend same honor, respect & good behavior as expected from them
- Should not do or utter anything to lower down the name of colleagues
- Should not entice patients away from colleagues
- Free medical service to fellow colleagues



# Unethical Acts

## 1. Advertising:

A physician shall not make use of him / her (or his / her name) as subject of any form or manner of advertising or publicity through any mode either alone or in conjunction with others



## 2. Secret Remedies:

- The prescribing or dispensing by a physician of secret remedial agents of which he does not know the composition, or the manufacture or promotion of their use is unethical and as such prohibited
- All the drugs prescribed by a physician should always carry a proprietary formula and clear name



## 3. Gifts from Pharmaceuticals practices:

- A medical practitioner shall not receive any gift from any pharmaceutical in the form of travel facilities, monetary grants and hospitality.

# Professional misconduct

- Conduct considered as disgraceful or dishonorable and leads to an intentional compromise of ethical standards by professional of good repute and competency



- Issue of false medical certificates
- Helping quacks
- Covering up unqualified persons.
- To personally open chemist shop
- To prescribe habit forming drugs
- Disclosing professional secrets of patients
- Failure to notify
- Treating patients under the influence of drink or drugs
- Fee splitting/dichotomy
- Failure to take consent before any procedure
- Sex Determination Tests



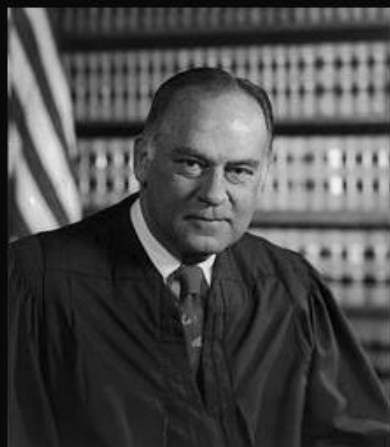
## How to Tackle??

- Need for introducing ethical & doctor-patient relationships training in the undergraduate and postgraduate medical training
- Ignorance of law and its implications will be detrimental to the doctor even though he treats the patient in good faith for the alleviation of the patient's suffering
- With the increasing number patients seeking legal remedy from doctors and medical establishments, it is no longer a matter of choice, but a **context-driven legal mandate and necessity** for the doctors to be conversant with basic legal issues involved in medical practice



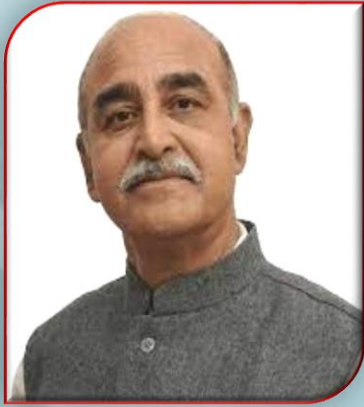
Try not to become a man  
of success but rather to become  
a man of value.

— Albert Einstein



Ethics is knowing the difference between what you  
have a right to do and what is right to do.

(Potter Stewart)



### Message from Executive Director.....

"I heartily congratulate the department of pharmacology for bringing this informative newsletter on "ethics in medical practice". My best wishes to the entire team.....

Dr. (Col) CDS Katoch, Executive Director, AIIMS, Rajkot.

## Team Pharmacology



This is an effort to bring forward important information on ethics in medical practice. This initiative will definitely be useful for medical practitioners and all readers for effective, safe and rational use of their knowledge. We hope you enjoy reading this e-bulletin!

- Dr. Rima Shah  
(Associate professor, Department of Pharmacology)



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