

# Morality in Medicine

## Part 2

### Understanding humanitarian goals: The Geneva declaration

- Revised version of Hippocratic Oath after the WWII atrocities
- The basic message of this declaration is: Not to use medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity!

عدم تقديم المعرفة الطبية متعارض مع قوانين الإنسانية.

1. في وقت الانضمام إلى مهنة الطب:  
أتعهد رسمياً بتكريس حياتي لخدمة الإنسانية.
2. سأمنح أساتذتي الاحترام والامتنان الذي يستحقونه.
3. سأمارس مهنتي بضمير وكرامة.
4. ستكون صحة مريضتي هي أولويتي الأولى.
5. سأحترم الأسرار التي يتم إيتمانني عليها، حتى بعد وفاة المريض.
6. سأحافظ بكل وسيلة في استطلاعتي على شرف وتقاليده مهنة الطب النبيلة.
7. رعائتي سيكونون أخواني وأخوتي.

لي أسمح لاعتبارات العمر، المرض أو الإعاقة، العقيدة، الأصل العرقي، الجنس، الجنسية، الانتماء السياسي، العرق، التوجه الجنسي، الحالة الاجتماعية أو أي عامل آخر أن يتدخل بين واجبي ومريضتي.

## The currently approved Geneva declaration

### At the time of being admitted as a member of the medical profession:

- I solemnly pledge to consecrate my life to the service of humanity
- I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude that is their due;
- I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity;
- The health of my patient will be my first consideration;
- I will respect the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;
- I will maintain by all the means in my power, the honor and the noble traditions of the medical profession;
- My colleagues will be my sisters and brothers;
- I will not permit considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;
- I will maintain the utmost respect for human life;
- I will not use my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;
- I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honor.

## Rules for Engagement: Today's Codes of Medical Ethics

- When you're in an ethically tricky situation; Ask yourself some questions. These questions may include:
  - Is there a published standard of behavior about this issue?
  - Would I want a member of my family to be treated this way?
  - How will this action or treatment affect the patient?
  - How will my conscience feel after I take this action?

قواعد التعامل: قوانين الأخلاقيات الطبية اليوم

[?] عند الوقوع في موقف أخلاقي صعب، اطرح على نفسك بعض الأسئلة. قد تشمل هذه الأسئلة:

1. هل هناك معيار منشور للسلوك بشأن هذه المسألة؟
2. هل أود أن يتم معاملة أحد أفراد عائلتي بهذه الطريقة؟
3. كيف سيؤثر هذا الإجراء أو العلاج على المريض؟



## American Medical Association Code of Ethics

- The AMA Code of Medical Ethics is not enforceable, but still serves as the standard of behavior for medical professionals with moral integrity



## The AMA Code of Medical Ethics has eight basic principles:

- ✓ Provide competent and compassionate medical care
- ✓ Maintain the highest professional standards
- ✓ Respect the law
- ✓ Keep the confidence of patients and colleagues
- ✓ Advance scientific and medical education
- ✓ Do not discriminate among peers and patients
- ✓ Improve public health
- ✓ Honor responsibilities to patients and support access to care

- The AMA has established the **Ethical Force Program (EForce)**:
- To promote and measure high ethical standards and expectations for healthcare providers.
- It creates, tests, and publicizes ethical issues and standards.
- The **Eforce** panel will create questions that doctors and patients can ask themselves and develop criteria for performance and policies.

## Dealing with violations

- AMA itself doesn't investigate doctors who violate the Code, but refers complaints to local medical societies
- The Council holds hearings (جلسة استماع) , and can then
- ✓ Acquit the doctor (تبرئة الطبيب)
- ✓ Admonish or censure the doctor (توبيخ الطبيب أو لومه)
- ✓ Place the doctor on probation (وضع الطبيب تحت المراقبة)
- ✓ Expel or suspend the doctor from the AMA ( طرد الطبيب أو تعليق ) عضويته



## **Bedside Manners:** **Ethics inside the Hospital**

- Healthcare providers are constantly trying to balance the social and scientific parts of their brains.
- Emotion and compassion have to be balanced with medical knowledge and the ability to reason and diagnose.
- The bedside manner is where these two parts come together in an ethical dance.



## **Understanding the hospital ethics panel**

- Most hospitals have ethics panels, composed of:
- Doctors, nurses, and other providers, administrators, social workers, lawyers, chaplains and other clergy, and some laypersons.
- All of these members are volunteers.



## Mission of ethics panel

- These panels convene to:
- Discuss ethics situations,
- advise providers and patients about making healthcare choices,
- review hospital policies, and
- help educate hospital staff about ethical issues.



## Topics addressed by Hospital ethics panel

- ✓ Disagreements between providers and patients, within families, or within hospital staff about the best course of treatment for a patient
- ✓ Clarification of ethical issues in a particular situation for providers and families
- ✓ Review of criteria for waiting lists for treatments or transplants
- ✓ Appropriate course of action when medical errors are committed
- ✓ Whether or not to continue life-sustaining treatment
- ✓ The need for informed consent and how this is best communicated with the patient
- ✓ Proxies and decision-making, such as living wills and advance directives
- ✓ Equity of care for minorities, the poor, or those with different religious beliefs
- ✓ Review of hospital policies involving ethical issues such as end-of-life care or abortion



## Patient bill of rights (1/2)

- ✓ To choose a physician freely
- ✓ To agree on terms with their provider
- ✓ To be treated with respect and consideration
- ✓ To have an advance directive on their chart
- ✓ To expect confidentiality and privacy
- ✓ To be fully informed about their condition and any treatments or drugs
- ✓ To receive responses to questions or requests in a reasonable time frame



## Emergency room ethics

- ✓ Triage: prioritizing for medical care





## Patient bill of rights (2/2)

- ✓ To be informed about business relationships among providers, the hospital, payers, and other entities
- ✓ To make choices about their care
- ✓ To refuse medical treatment
- ✓ To full disclosure of their condition, insurance plans, and treatment plans
- ✓ To expect continuity of care