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- **Rabia**
  - **GM # 06**

Medical Ethics and Etiquettes  
Salymbekov Medical University





# Medical ethics

It is a set of moral principles, beliefs and values that guide us in making choices about medical care.

At the core of health care ethics is our sense of right and wrong and our beliefs about rights we possess and duties we owe others.

## The difference between ethics & etiquette

### ETHICS

- ▶ Intention
- ▶ Conscience
- ▶ Absolute
- ▶ Spiritual

### ETIQUETTE

- ▶ Manner
- ▶ Formality
- ▶ Relative
- ▶ Outer/Physically

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# Types of Ethics



- 1. Medical Ethics:** Clinical obligations
  - fidelity first to patients' interests
  - telling the truth (cancer, errors)
- 2. Professional Ethics:** Obligations of the profession
  - self-regulation
  - education of self and others
- 3. Bioethics:** Guides for public policy
  - gene technology, stem cell research
  - health system reform

# ➤ Medical Ethics Concept: Consequentialism

Consequentialism

focuses on consequences of actions.

Deontology

focuses on duties.

Virtue Ethics

focus on character.

Buzzle.com

Consequentialism is a theory that says whether something is good or bad depends on its outcomes.

If your action has overall benefit, then it does not matter about the action itself.

*For example,*

*Your patient has a terminal illness and is not likely to survive the operation she is about to undertake. Just as she is about to be anaesthetised, she asks you: “Doctor, will I be okay?”. A consequentialist ideology supports that lying in this circumstance is acceptable, even though lying itself is not a moral action.*

## ➤ Medical Ethics Concept: Utilitarianism

- Utilitarianism says the best action is that one that brings about the best increase in utility (benefit).
- It is a theory of morality that advocates actions that foster happiness or pleasure and oppose actions that cause unhappiness or harm.

**Example: You have a sum of money to either fund a very expensive treatment for one patient with a rare disease or five patients with a very common and easy-to-treat disease. Utilitarian ethics dictates that treating the five patients is morally superior as a greater overall benefit is achieved.**

## ➤ Medical Ethics Concept: Deontology

- Deontology is also known as “duty-based ethics”. This ideology states that the correct course of action is dependent on what your duties and obligations are. It means that the morality of an action is based on whether you followed the rules, rather than what the consequence of following them was.

Example: If your terminally ill patient asks if they'll be ok after a surgery they're unlikely to survive, a deontological approach would suggest you don't lie to comfort them. That's because according to this concept, lying isn't morally acceptable because it's our obligation not to lie – no matter the consequences.

- **What systems of ethics can you use to guide your choices in life? Ethical systems can generally be broken down into three categories: deontological, teleological and virtue-based ethics. The first two are considered deontic or action-based theories of morality because they focus entirely on the actions which a person performs.**



# ➤ Principles of medical ethics:

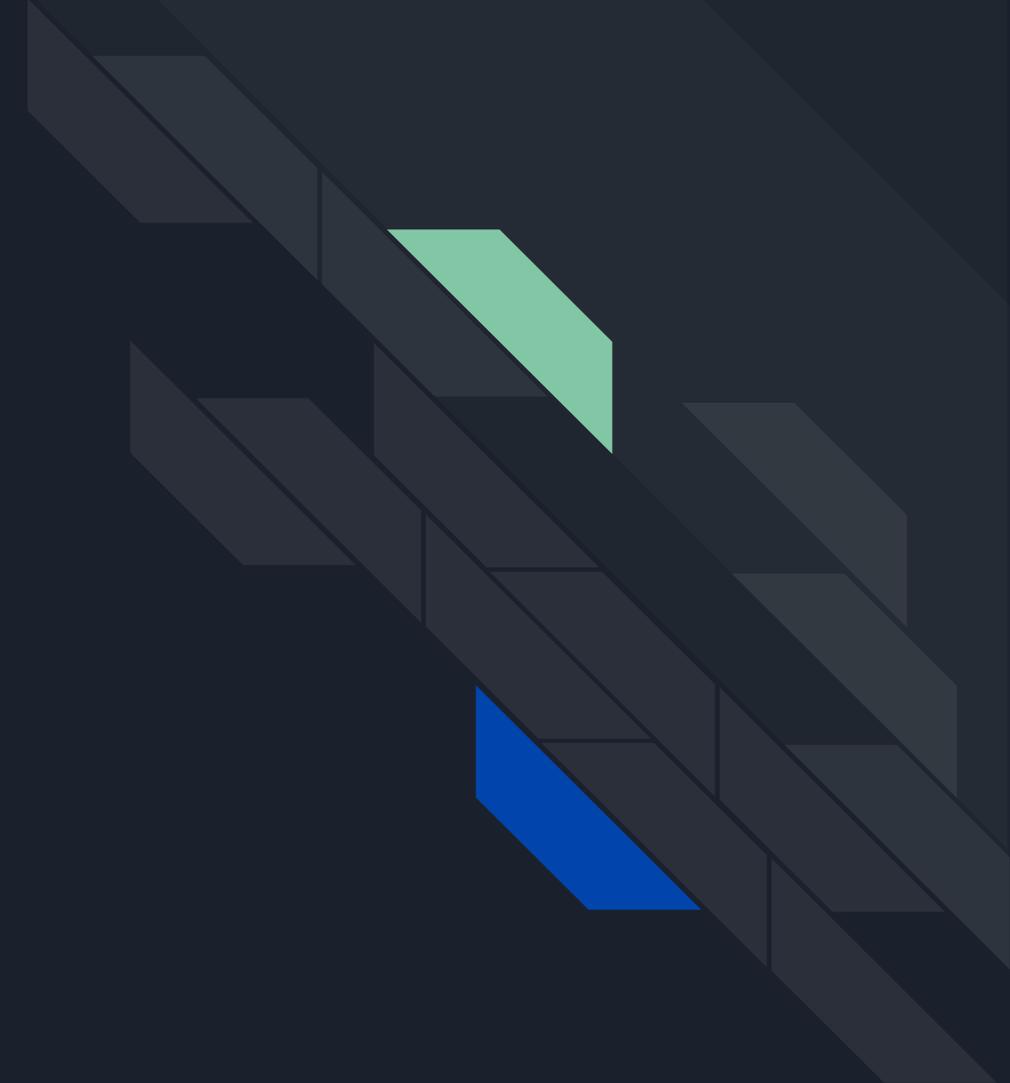
- The four pillars of medical ethics are:
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- Beneficence (doing good)
- Non-maleficence (to do no harm)
- Autonomy (giving the patient the freedom to choose freely, where they are able)
- Justice (ensuring fairness)

## Principles of Medical Ethics

- **A**utonomy
- **B**eneficence
- **C**onfidentiality
- **D**o no harm/ **N**on-maleficence
- **E**quity or Justice



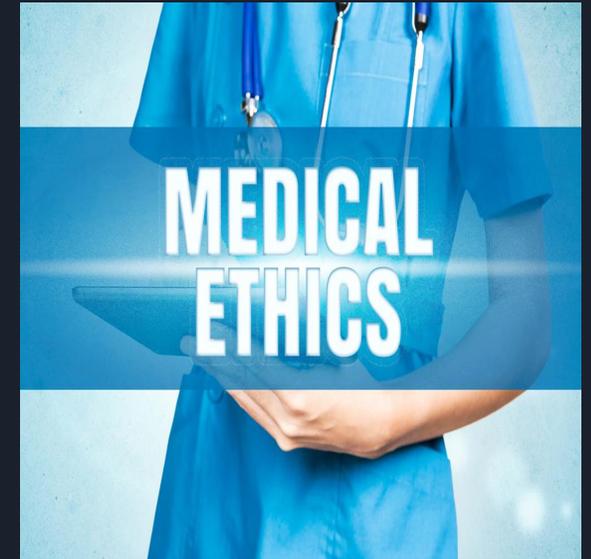
- Beneficence and Non-maleficence
- Edit
- Beneficence is the act of "doing good" while non-maleficence is the act of "not doing bad". In practical terms, medical practitioners have an ethical responsibility to strive to do what is in the best interests of their patients. However, it is important to remember that some medical interventions may seem beneficial but may also carry with them the possibility of causing harm. In fact, nearly all medical treatments and procedures, it could be argued, harm the patient in some way, but it is more to do with the magnitude of the benefit versus the magnitude of potential risks





- **Autonomy and Consent Edit**
- **Autonomy is the right of a patient to make an informed, uncoerced decision about their own health management. If this principle is disregarded by a medical professional because he/she believes another decision would be better for the patient, then it is termed paternalism. An autonomous decision should never be overruled by a medical professional, but not all decisions are autonomous. For patients to have autonomy, they must have the capacity to receive, retain and repeat the information that is given to them, provided the information is complete and given to them in a manner that they can understand.**

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- **Justice Edit**
  - **Justice refers to the distribution of things and positions of people within society. In a medical setting, justice involves the allocation of health-care resources in a fair way. This may be an equal distribution (egalitarianism) or a maximization of the total or average welfare across the whole society (utilitarianism).**



# PRINCIPLES OF HEALTHCARE ETHICS

Enter your sub headline here



## Autonomy

Respect a person's freedom to choose what's right for them.

01



## Non-maleficence

Do no harm.

02



## Beneficence

All choices for a patient are made with the intent to do good.

03



## Justice

Treat and provide care fairly to all patients.

04

## ➤ **How To Develop Medical Ethics Knowledge**

One of the best ways to develop your understanding of medical ethics is to practice analysing situations using ethical frameworks and ideologies.

You can do this on your own, with a teacher, or with a fellow medical school applicant who could give you their perspective and share ideas.

Try to compare the outcomes given by different frameworks and consider the implications of this.

Make sure you stay up-to-date with the latest health news – and see how these ethical frameworks apply to what's currently in the news.

Thanks for your attention