

ETHICAL Principles and Values Part I

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What is Ethics?

- A compilation of a Code of Ethics (Corporate Ethics), a Code of Conduct (Employee Ethics) and a Code of Practice (Professional Ethics)
- A system of principles and values that aid in defining “right from wrong” conduct in a myriad of situations

What is Ethics?

- Making the right decision, at the right time, for the right reasons
- A framework to define what is best for the patient or society at large, and is not self-serving
- Seeking the greatest benefit and the least harm to those under your care
- Plato: Seeking to be “perfect”

Principles of Ethics:

- Beneficence – Seek to be of maximum benefit to those under your care
- Nonmaleficence – Be intentional to avoid doing harm to those under your care
- Fidelity – Guarding the inherent trust placed in you as a healthcare professional, by both the patient and society at large

Principles of Ethics: (cont)

- Responsibility – Abiding by the full scope of your duties to care for all patients entrusted to you (Hippocratic Standard)
- Integrity – Promote and maintain accuracy, honesty and truthfulness in all your affairs
- Justice – Diligence to be fair and equitable in your treatment of those under your care

Principles of Ethics: (cont)

- Respect for patient's rights & dignity – Display no prejudice on any basis, and protect the privacy, confidentiality & self-determination of those under your care
- Accountability – Paint a word-picture of situations, events & rationale for your decisions and actions
- Self Care – Maintain optimal capacity & competency to perform your duties

Values of Healthcare Ethics:

- ▶ Service– Give to help others
- ▶ Social Justice– Promote what is right
- ▶ Dignity and Worth of the Person–
Restore wholeness
- ▶ Importance of Human Relationships–
Use the power of Community & Empathy

Values of Healthcare Ethics: (cont)

- ▶ Integrity– **Be congruent in actions/words**
- ▶ Competence– **Able/committed to my job**
- ▶ Advocacy– **Be their voice as needed**
- ▶ Sacred Trust– **Preserve their confidences**
- ▶ Boundaries– **Set Healthy limits**
- ▶ Safety– **Dispel fear and mistrust**



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