

MEDICAL ETHICS

Medical ethics

- **It is the study of careful and systematic reflection and analysis of moral decisions and a system of moral principals that apply values and judgments to the practice of medicine**
- It helps the doctor to decide what is morally right

- Bioethicists often refer to the **five basic principles of health care ethics** when evaluating the merits and difficulties of medical procedures.
- Ideally, for a medical practice to be considered "ethical", all these 5 principles must be respected :
 - 1) Autonomy
 - 2) Beneficence
 - 3) Confidentiality
 - 4) Non-maleficence.
 - 5) Equity or Justice

Basic principles of medical ethics....

1) Autonomy : Patient has freedom of thought , intension and action when making decisions regarding health care procedures

- For a patient to make a fully informed decision, he/she must understand all risks and benefits of the procedure and the likelihood of success.

2) Beneficence : The practitioner should act in “the best interest” of the patient, the procedure be provided with the intent of doing good to the patient.

- Patient’s welfare should be the first consideration

3) Confidentiality : Maintain the confidentiality of all personal, medical and treatment information.

- Information to be revealed for the benefit of the patient and when ethically and legally required

4) Non – Maleficence : Above all “**Do no harm**”.

- Make sure that the procedure doesnot harm the patient or others in society

5) Equity or Justice : The practitioner must be able to make fair and equal distribution of scarce health resources, and the decision of who gets what treatment.

- Also the burdens and benefits of new or experimental treatments must be distributed equally among all groups in society.

Code of Conduct