

## Medical Ethics Then and Now!

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## Objectives

- Define medical ethics and identifying common issues and ethics in the laboratory in a historical context.
- Explain some of the newer concerns related to ethics in the evolving health care environment.
- Discuss applications of ethics in the laboratory and life situations.



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## What is Medical Ethics?

- Right versus Wrong
- Moral Considerations
- Personal Value System-beliefs



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## Professional Ethics

- Associated with training in a specific discipline
- “What is your inner voice?”
- Conscience?



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## How do Ethics Develop?

- Value
- Life Experience
- Education



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How were they externally influenced?

**THINK OF SPECIFIC EXAMPLES  
OF YOUR VIEWPOINTS**



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## How does Ethics affect you and the laboratory?

- What is the patient's condition?
- Are the lab tests appropriate?
- What information should be released and to whom?
- How is the information used once it is provided?
- Should the lab inform of better options or provide guidance?
- How is the test ran, prepared and interpreted?
- What if corners are cut and in what processes?



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## What do you do when faced with a dilemma?

- Automatic
- Contemplation
  - Is it legal?
  - Is it balanced?
  - How does it make me feel?



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## Patient's and Your Ethics

- The patient is DEAR
- **D**ignity
- **E**mpathy
- **A**utonomy
- **R**espect



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## Historical Cases of Ethics

- Consent
- Vulnerable Populations
  - Blood Transfusions and Jehovah's Witnesses
  - Vaccination Requirements
  - Healthcare testing and treatment for minors (<18 yoa) or the elderly (competence)
  - Confidentiality and the Healthcare industry



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## Evolving Challenges

- Gender Identity
- Ethnic, cultural, economic, geographic or other health characteristics
- Mandatory Abuse Reporting
- Technical Advances
  - Stem Cell research (embryonic stem cells and public funding)
  - Genomics testing (predictive)
  - Gene Therapy
  - Cloning



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## Evolving Challenges (Con't)

- Rationing Limited Healthcare
  - Organ allocation and other life saving treatments
- Public Health Ethics
- The many vs the few or the one
- Biobanking
- Bioethics, business and healthcare



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## Leadership Ethics

- **Not just about the patient!**
- Workplace ethics
- Fair Labor Act (wage limits, regulates overtime pay standards)
- Equal Pay Act (prevents sex discrimination)
- Family and Medical Leave Act (12 weeks of leave)
- Affordable Care Act (Lactation and for one year)
- OSHA employee safety



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## Reporting Professional Misconduct

- Place of employment first
- If you are comfortable, you approach the individual
- Notify your supervisor (what if it is your supervisor?)
- File a complaint with state CLIA office or Licensure Board



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The laboratory employees, patients and others...

## WHAT HAPPENS IN THE LAB



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## Bringing up an Instrument

Scenario #1



<https://www.ascls.org/222-lab-professionals/244-lab-professionals>



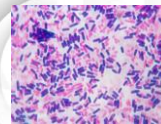
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## Verification/Validation

- Method Comparison
- Running Samples
- Reporting Patient Results
- Responsibility
- Recovery

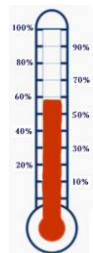


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## Not Worth My Time

Scenario #2



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## Routine Procedures and Quality Control Measures

- Never changes
- No one will ever know
- What will it hurt?
- The next day ..... will do it.



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## Not YOUR Problem

Scenario #3



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## Critical/Panic Values

- No one will respond
- Cannot find the person you are to talk to
- The other person on the end of the line will not help you
- Where do you go for help?



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## I have a Secret!

Scenario #4



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## Genetic Information

- Biobanking Samples
- Already collected
- IRB-Do you need to file one?
- No one will ever know



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## Scope of Practice and Responsibility

- Charged with possessing specific skills and knowledge to properly do your job.



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## Questions or Comments?

Prepare to make difficult decisions even when they are not the popular decision, but they are the right decision!



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## Resources

- Applied Law and Ethics for Health Professionals by Carla Stanford and Valerie Connor, Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2020. ISBN: 9781284155594
- ASCLS Code of Ethics - <https://www.ascls.org/about-us/code-of-ethics>
- Medical errors - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUfRzxNy20>
- Protecting patient privacy - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhQa\\_pF1C24](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhQa_pF1C24)
- Japanese medical war crimes <https://youtu.be/PmWtHJgOMeg>
- German Medical war crimes <https://youtu.be/7014emLQ390>
- Rationing limiting resources. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gd\\_-0rd\\_stJk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gd_-0rd_stJk)
- Biobanking and IRB - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiD-v4mpgYo>
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot.
- Publisher: Broadway Books (March 8, 2011), ISBN-10: 9781400052189
- Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup by John Carreyrou
- ISBN-10: 1509868089



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