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# Doctor- patient relationship

## **Ethical responsibilities of physicians**

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# Content

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- Patients' Rights
  - Patients' Responsibilities
  - Duties of physicians towards their patients
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# Learning Objectives

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- Identify Patients' Rights
  - Determine Patients' Responsibilities
  - Clarify Duties of physicians towards their patients
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# ***Patients' Rights***

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- ***Information Disclosure***  
Patients have the right to receive accurate and easily understood information about their health plan.
  - ***Participation in Treatment Decisions***  
Patients have the right
    - To know all their treatment options
    - To participate in decisions about their care.
    - Parents, guardians, family members, or other individuals that patients choose can represent them if they cannot make their own decisions.
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# ***Patients' Rights***

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- ***Respect and Nondiscrimination***

**Patients have a right to considerate, respectful and non-discriminative care from their doctors, health plan representatives, and other health care providers.**

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# ***Patients' Rights***

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- ***Confidentiality of Health Information***
    - **Patients have the right to talk in confidence and to have their health care information protected.**
    - **Patients also have the right to review and copy their own medical record and request that the physician correct their record if it is not accurate, relevant, or complete.**
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# ***Patients' Responsibilities***

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- **To provide information about their health, including past illnesses, hospital stays and use of medicine.**
  - **To ask questions when they do not understand information or instructions.**
  - **To tell their doctor if they believe that they cannot follow through with their treatment.**
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# ***Patients' Responsibilities***

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- **To follow hospital rules and regulations affecting patient care and conduct.**
  - **To be considerate of the needs of other patients, staff and the hospital. This includes controlling noise, smoking and the number of visitors.**
  - **To provide information about their insurance and to work with the hospital to arrange payment, when needed.**
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# ***Duties of physicians towards their patients***

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- **A physician should deal honestly with patients.**

- **A physician should certify only that which he/she has personally verified.**

- **A physician should act in the patient's best interest when providing medical care.**

- **A physician should respect a patient's right to confidentiality.**

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# ***Duties of physicians towards their patients***

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- 5. A physician should ask only for proper investigations according to the patient's condition.**
  - 6. A physician should honestly explain to the patient or anyone representing him the type, causes, and complications of the illness.**
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# ***Duties of physicians towards their patients***

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- 7. A physician should treat all his patients equally, without any discrimination based on their prestige, their social or moral status, the physician's own feelings towards them, their religious or racial background, their political Orientation, or their gender, nationality, or colour.**
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***A physician should make sure to observe the following while examining a patient:***

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- a .He should make a record of the patient's condition and of personal and family medical history before beginning to diagnose and treat the case.**
  
  - b. He should be careful and efficient in, and give sufficient time to, the examination and diagnosis process.**
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*A physician should make sure to observe ~~the following while examining a patient:~~*

c. Prescriptions should be made in **writing** and should be **clear**, with **dosages** and **method of administration** **specified**. The patient or his family members, as the case requires, should be made aware of the importance of following the method of treatment prescribed by the physician and of the serious potential side effects of the medical or surgical treatment.

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- ***A physician should make sure that surgical operations are performed under the following conditions:***
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- a. The physician who performs an operation should have the specialization and medical experience that qualify him to do the required type of surgery.**
  - b. The surgical operation should be performed at a therapeutic institution or health establishment which is sufficiently equipped for the performance of such a surgery.**
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***A physician should make sure that surgical operations are performed under the following conditions:***

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- **The patient should be prepared thoroughly before the operation.**
  - d. The surgeon attending the patient has the obligation of performing the surgery himself. He may be helped by a resident at the hospital or some other surgeon, with no need for the patient's consent.**
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**A physician should gently, honestly, and wisely and without undue exaggeration explain to the patient the consequences of declining to follow a treatment and the resulting complications and consequently the physician has the right to discontinue patient's treatment.**

**A physician should give to his patient an **advance notice** of any travel or absence plans he has and a suitable physician should be available in the absence of the doctor in charge of the patient**

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# A physician should not

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- **A physician should not receive any financial benefits or gifts for referring patients or prescribing specific products.**
  - **A physician should not use his patients as experimental tools ( **except after their consent** ).**
  - **A physician should not hesitate in consulting another physician in difficult cases. A patient or a member of his family has the right to invite another efficient doctor for consultation, after informing the original physician.**
  - **A physician should not refuse treatment of emergency cases.**
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- **A physician should not try to end the life of his patient by any means e.g euthanasia or by switching off life support machine.**
  - **A physician should not postpone treatment till he gets the fee from the patient.**
  - **A physician should not leave his patient's treatment if this will endanger patient's life**
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**Thank You**



