

Professional Ethics Review

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Is the philosophy of human conduct, a way of stating and evaluating principles by which problems of behavior can be solved.

Ethics for dentists

Ethics in healthcare has become a vital issue for related professions when so many changes appear to be occurring simultaneously.

Ethics or moral philosophy

Is a branch of philosophy that involves systematizing, defending, and concepts of right and wrong conduct

- ☐ • Ethics is not the same as feelings
- ☐ • Ethics is not religion
- ☐ • Ethics is not following the law
- ☐ • Ethics is not following culturally accepted norms
- ☐ • Ethics is not science.

➤ **differences between the ethics and laws**

Dental ethics is also closely related to law. In most countries there are laws that specify how dentists are required to deal with ethical issues in patient care and research. In addition, the dental licensing and regulatory officials in each country can and do punish dentists for ethical violations. Usually the requirements of dental ethics and law are similar. But ethics should not be confused with law.

- Laws can differ significantly from one country to another while ethics is generally applicable across national boundaries.
- Ethics quite often prescribes higher standards of behavior than does the law, and occasionally situations may arise where the two conflict.

Occasionally situations may arise where the two conflict. In such circumstances dentists must use their own best judgement whether to comply with the law or follow ethical principles.

Ethics are

- ☐ Moral Principles
- ☐ • What is good and bad
- ☐ • What is right and wrong
- ☐ • Based on value system
- ☐ • Ethical norms are not universal – depends on the subculture of the society

What is meant by ETHICS?

Ethics are ... Ethics refers to standards of behavior that tell us how human beings ought to act in the many situations in which they find themselves as friends, parents, children, citizens, businesspeople, teachers, professionals, and so on.

The word ethics comes from the Greek ethos originally meaning character or conduct. It is typically used interchangeably with the word moral which is derived from the Latin word mores, which means customs or habits. Together these two terms refer to conduct, character, and motivations involved in moral acts.

Ethics is primarily a matter of knowing morality is a matter of doing.

Thus, ethics are not imposed by a profession or by law, but by moral obligation. Ethics are an unwritten code of conduct that encompass both professional conduct and judgment. Though the details of the written ethical code may vary from profession to profession.

Ethics are the moral principles or virtues that govern the character and conduct of an individual or a group. Ethics, as a branch of both philosophy and theology, is the systematic study of what is right and good with respect to character and conduct.

The object of ethics is to emphasize spirit (or intent) rather than law. Dental ethics applies moral principles and virtues to the practice of dentistry.

In simple words, Ethics is a set of philosophical beliefs and practices concerned with the distinction between right and wrong.

Dental ethics, the branch of ethics that deals with moral issues in dental practice.

Why ethics are important?

Ethics affect virtually every decision made in a dental office, encompassing activities of both judging and choosing. Ethics affect and obligate relationships with patients, the public, office staff, and other professionals.

Ethics is and always has been an essential component of dental practice. Ethical principles such as respect for persons, informed consent and confidentiality are basic to the dentist-patient relationship

The aims (objectives) of studying ETHICS:

- 1- To understand what is meant by ethics in Dentistry.
- 2- Focusing on the term “profession” and how it relates to ethics in dentistry.
- 3- Become familiar with elements and principles of ethical decision making.
- 4- To clarify the ethics of patient relations, delegation of duties, financial arrangements, and managed care.
- 5- To know the difference between dental law and dental ethics.
- 6- Define the normative theories of ethics and apply them to ethical issues in practice.
- 7- Apply the principles of dental ethics to everyday practice

➤ Principlism, as its name implies, uses ethical principles as the basis for making moral decisions. It applies these principles to particular cases or situations in order to determine what is the right thing to do, taking into account both rules and consequences.

- Obligations: oughts that apply to dentists' conduct by reason of their being professionals.

Obligation explained as any one of the following situation:

- (1) someone ought to act, or refrain from acting, in some way.
- (2) There are defensible reasons to support the claim that he, she, or they ought to act or refrain in that way.
- (3) These reasons make such acting or refraining relatively important in comparison with other possible actions in the situation.

Dentistry as a profession

Dentistry has long prided itself on being a profession, and dentists routinely describe themselves as professionals. Dentists can clearly claim for themselves several of the most common characteristics of professions and professionals:

- (1) Dentists possess a distinctive expertise that consists of both theoretical knowledge and skills for applying it in practice,
- (2) Dentists' expertise is a source of important benefits for those who seek their assistance
- (3) Because of their expertise, dentists are accorded, both individually and collectively, extensive autonomy in matters pertaining to it>
- (4) A professions and professionals have special obligations and consider this to be a central feature of their being professions and professionals.

What are codes of ethics?

Many dental organizations have published codes of ethical conduct to guide member dentists in their practice. For example, the American Dental Association has had a Code of Ethics since 1866. A code of ethics marks the moral boundaries within which professional services may be ethically provided. Codes of ethics and professional guidelines have quasi-legal force; non-compliance can result in sanctions from censure to loss of professional status.

