

MODULE TITLE: PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICS

June, 2005

<p>Module Rationale and Competences</p>	<p>All surgical trainees are required to have a thorough understanding of the ethical principles of medicine and how they apply to medical practice. They are also required to adopt an ethic approach to all aspects of their professional practice. This module draws trainees attention to the aspects of ethical and legal issues; medical indemnity and risk management; time management; and health advocacy as well as management and leadership.</p> <p>At graduation the Trainee will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identify ethical expectations that impinge on the most common medico-legal issues▪ Interpret ethical and legal requirements of the medical profession into their daily practice▪ Act ethically towards their patients and colleagues and consistently apply ethical principles▪ Handle complaints including self-criticism or criticism from colleagues or patients▪ Approach and deal with all patients with a non-discriminatory, non-judgmental attitude▪ Employ a consultative approach with colleagues and other professionals▪ Recognise the need to refer patients to other professionals▪ Respect the different kinds of knowledge and expertise which contribute to the effective functioning of a clinical team▪ Maintain professional standards in their role as a surgeon and a Fellow of the College
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Suggested Reading	<p>There are no prescribed texts trainees will be expected to keep abreast with current literature.</p> <p>Some suggested sources include:</p> <p><i>Ethics, Law and Medical Practice</i>, K Breen, V Plueckhahn and S Cordner, Allen & Unwin, 1997. ISBN 1-86448-407-1 AMA Code of Ethics 2003. Available from the AMA website: http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-5WW598 <i>Communicating with patients: advice for medical practitioners</i> (draft version). Available from the NHMRC website: http://www7.health.gov.au/nhmrc/publications/synopses/e58syn.htm National Privacy Principles and associated state legislation: <i>Application of the privacy laws to medical records in Victoria</i> is available from AMA Victoria. Email address is amavic@amavic.com.au New Zealand Medical Association, Code of Ethics, http://www.nzma.org.nz/about/ethics/codeofethics.pdf National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Ethical Issues (2004) http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/ethics/human/issues/index.htm NSW Health, 2005, Guidelines for end-of-life care and decision making http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2005/pdf/end_of_life_care.pdf Pathfinder: Australian Health Law, http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/~library/pathfind/health_p.htm</p>
Learning Opportunities and Methods	<p>On-line Literature review</p>
How this unit will be assessed	<p>Half yearly Supervisor's reports Examination</p>

Module Objectives

Ethical issues

- Identify and demonstrate the qualities of an ethical practitioner (altruism, honesty, patient autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, fidelity, social justice, utility, accountability, respect)
- Accurately describe the ethical rights of patients
- Critically evaluate their own communication skills with patients and colleagues
- Is accountable for their decisions and actions
- Acknowledge their own limitations
- Acknowledge and learn from mistakes
- Appropriately adjust the way they communicate with patients (and their families) to accommodate cultural and linguistic differences and to facilitate their informed decision making and consent
- Conduct examinations in a culturally appropriate manner
- Manage patients in ways that demonstrate sensitivity to their physical, social, cultural, and psychological needs
- Act responsibly
- Apply state/regional privacy principles in their medical practice

Legal issues

- Accurately describe the legal rights of patients
- Distinguish between the different requirements for medical records, reports and certificates
- Identify the most salient points in relation to medical registration and discipline

Medical indemnity and risk management

- Explain the standards of 'informed consent'
- Summarise the key issues in relation to professional liability and negligence
- Outline the mechanisms of qualified privilege and confidentiality
- Identify and manage risk
- Communicate information to patients (and their family) about potentialities and risks of treatment options
- Plans, and where necessary implements, a risk management plan
- Describe, and if necessary implement, the approach for dealing with and reporting adverse events

Time Management

- Maintain comprehensive, accurate and timely records
- Initiate time management strategies in relation to their own practices

Health Advocacy

- Maintain their own health
- Advises patients on ways to promote and/or maintain their health
- Advocates for patient health
- Supports colleagues to maintain health

Management and Leadership

- Identify local requirements for practice and credentialing
- Identify and differentiate between resources of the health care delivery system and individual patient needs
- Apply a wide range of information to prioritise needs and demands
- Effectively assess and manage systemic risk factors
- Review the obligations of medical practitioners under various statutes
- Resolve conflicts
- Summarise the standards of care as defined by the college and relevant statutory bodies
- Describe the health complaints system
- Review the requirements of medical practitioners in relation to court procedures, giving evidence and medico-legal examinations
- Communicating with patients, parents, peers and other professionals