

Rights and Responsibilities **related to health**

Right to health

**Universal declaration of human rights...
(1948)...article 25:**

“Everyone has a right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family...”

Preamble to the WHO constitution:

“...It is one of the fundamental rights of every human being to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health...”

- **Many countries...**
 - Right to medical care
 - Right to health protection (Social and health insurance)
 - Right to be cared for by society in old age and invalidity

Health: no longer accepted as a charity
or a privilege of the few....

BUT

demanded as **a right for all...**

**Even in countries with limited resources,
equal right to available health care
services...**

Right to health includes.....

(right to...)

- **Medical care**
- **Healthy environment**
- **Food**
- **Procreate** (including artificial insemination)
- **Not to procreate** (FP, Sterilization, legal abortion)
- **Rights of deceased persons** (determination of death, autopsy, organ removal, donation)
- **Right to die** (hunger strike, discontinuation of life support measures)

Responsibility for health

- Involves joint efforts of the whole social fabric..... Individuals, community, state...
- Individual responsibility:
 - no community or state program of health services can “give health”!
 - In large measure, it “has to be earned” and “maintained” by the individual himself...

SELF CARE

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graph TD; A[SELF CARE] --> B[Preventive]; A --> C[curative]; A --> D[Limiting illness]; A --> E[Restoring health]
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Preventive

curative

**Limiting
illness**

**Restoring
health**

Self care related to particular illnesses
+ family planning

- **Disease patterns → from acute to chronic...
so, self care is logical and appropriate
(to reduce burden on official health services)**
- **E.g. simple measures like recording own BP,
urine for sugar, etc...**

- **Community responsibility:**
 - **Earlier.... People were looked upon as...**
 - “Sources” of pathology
 - “Victims” of pathology
 - “Targets” for preventive and curative services....
 - Neglected as health “resources”
 - **Now... realization that state/individual can not do without united community efforts...**

- **“Demedicalization”** of health related services..... by involving communities in a meaningful way.
- **Health care: FOR the people**
BY the people...
- **“Community Participation”:**
 - **VHG; SBA (TBA); DOTS provider;**
 - **Utilization of available services (health care seeking behaviour)**

HENRY SIGERIST

(medical historian)

“People’s health ought to be the concern of the people themselves. They must struggle for it and plan for it. The war against disease and for health can not be fought by physicians alone. It’s a people’s war in which the entire population must be mobilized permanently...”

- **State responsibility:**
 - **Constitution of India: health is a state responsibility**
 - **Provides health care through “primary health care” approach**
- **International responsibility:**
 - **UN, WHO....**

Medical ethics

- (Ethics is) the concern which an apparently good has over a relatively lesser good in compelling choices...
- Medical and health care: interwoven with social, cultural, psychological, economic and political structure of the community
- **Old practice: “one to one”**
- **Now... “many to one”, “many to many”**
medical team... (instruments, procedures, Investigations...)

- **Refined hospital care for the patient...**
- **Health care approach for the general population...**

result...

Not so good: cost of care, human values????

**good: more awareness about health, disease,
personal rights and duties of others...**

(People want to know everything about their health problems, the treatment that they receive, its advantages and disadvantages, risks, complications of diseases, alternative solutions, etc...) **..... CPA**

- **Changing times:**
 - Hippocratic oath: abortion forbidden;
 - Now: MTP can be legally done
- **Doctor and patient are equally responsible for improvement of health, restoration of normalcy and prevention of ill-health...**

Areas of concern...

in medical ethics

1. Confidentiality / secrecy that should be maintained and to what level...
2. Health legislations and allied laws in existence with their exact interpretation and application...
3. Definition of advertisement & publicity and use of mass media in medical practice...
4. Malpractice, professional negligence, unintentional or otherwise, its admittance, legal aspects, areas of risk and prevention...

5. Commercialization in medicine from the level of fees for services to cost of resources, charity used as a commercial tool, modes of payments...
6. Referral practice including whom to refer, why to refer, where to refer, need for referral, investigations actually needed...
7. Knowledge, application and feasibility in given circumstances of the technological progress. The application must not result in ethical violation especially in experimentation and research...

8. Performance of procedures that are unethical, surgical procedures that are non-essential...
9. Knowledge, importance, utilization and support of and to the paramedic and other professions that are complimentary to the medical practice...
10. Knowledge of and belonging & binding to highest technical and professional body in the field of medicine... (MCI)

Clinical ethics

- **Definition:**

- It is the timely and optimum identification, analysis and resolution of medical (also social and moral) concerns that arise between....
 1. Beneficiary and HCP
 2. Medical doctors of a team or otherwise
 3. Doctors and paramedic / supplementary HCPs
....either at hospital or field level and at any point in health care delivery.

- **Modalities of patient care may change with time...**

...BUT... adherence to acceptable, social, moral and medical standards prevalent at that time must remain unchanged...

...also...the prime concern for complete holistic care of beneficiary, professional interdependence and hence mutual respect and conducive interpersonal relationship goes without any change.....