



ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE POLICY

The purpose of this Healthcare Ethics Policy is to establish a clear framework for ethical decision-making, behavior, and responsibilities among all healthcare professionals, staff, and affiliated parties. This policy ensures that the highest standards of integrity, respect, and patient care are upheld in accordance with professional codes, legal regulations, and organizational values.

Healthcare ethics are the moral principles and guidelines that direct healthcare professionals in their interactions with patients and colleagues, ensuring compassionate, fair, and just care. Key principles include autonomy (*respecting patient decisions*), beneficence (*doing good*), non-maleficence (*avoiding harm*), and justice (*fairness and equality*). These principles are put into practice through codes of ethics that address issues like confidentiality, informed consent, and professionalism to maintain public trust and improve patient outcomes.

Core Principles of Healthcare Ethics

Autonomy -The right of patients to make their own informed decisions about their healthcare. This requires providing patients with comprehensive information about their options, risks, and benefits.

Beneficence -The duty of healthcare professionals to act in the best interest of the patient. Promote patient well-being, taking proactive steps to benefit the health and quality of life of those in care

Non-maleficence -The principle of "*do no harm*," meaning healthcare providers should avoid causing harm to patients. Act with diligence to minimize risks and avoid negligent or reckless actions.

Justice - The obligation to treat patients fairly and equitably, without discrimination. Ensure equal access to care, resources and treatment

Putting Ethical Considerations in Practice Includes Practicing the Following Principles

Confidentiality - Protecting the privacy of a patient's personal health information.

Informed Consent - Ensuring patients have all the necessary information to make informed choices about their treatment.

Professionalism -Honesty in all professional interactions and upholding high standards of competence and integrity.

Patient Safety - A key ethical concern is to minimize medical errors and ensure patient safety is a top priority.

Equity -Fair allocation of resources and access to care for all patients.

Ethical Considerations Guide the Healthcare System to Provide

A Framework for Decision-Making - Codes of ethics provide a moral compass for navigating complex situations.

Professional Accountability - Holding professionals accountable for their conduct and possible disciplinary action for violations.

Trust building - Adherence to ethical guidelines fosters trust between patients and providers, which is crucial for the healthcare system.

Improved outcomes - By ensuring ethical decision-making, the quality of patient care is improved, and patient outcomes are enhanced.