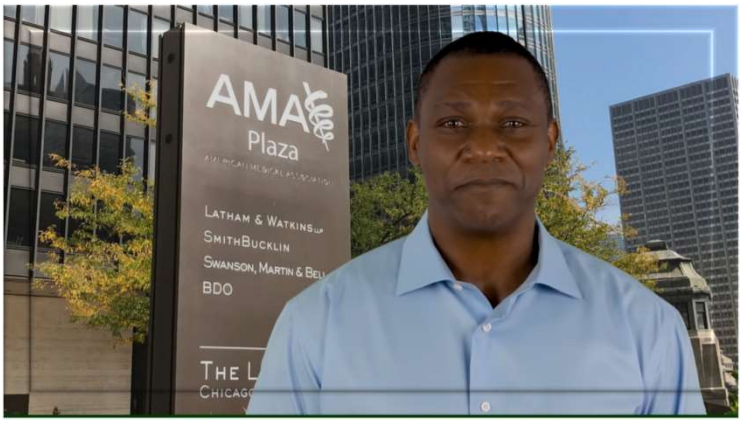
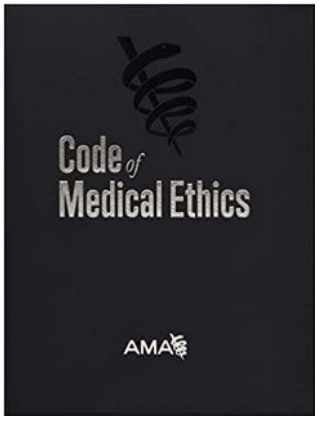




AMA Code of Ethics

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Thank you Missah for the great introduction lesson. In this lesson, let's see what the American Medical Association: Code of Medical Ethics says.

Good studying!

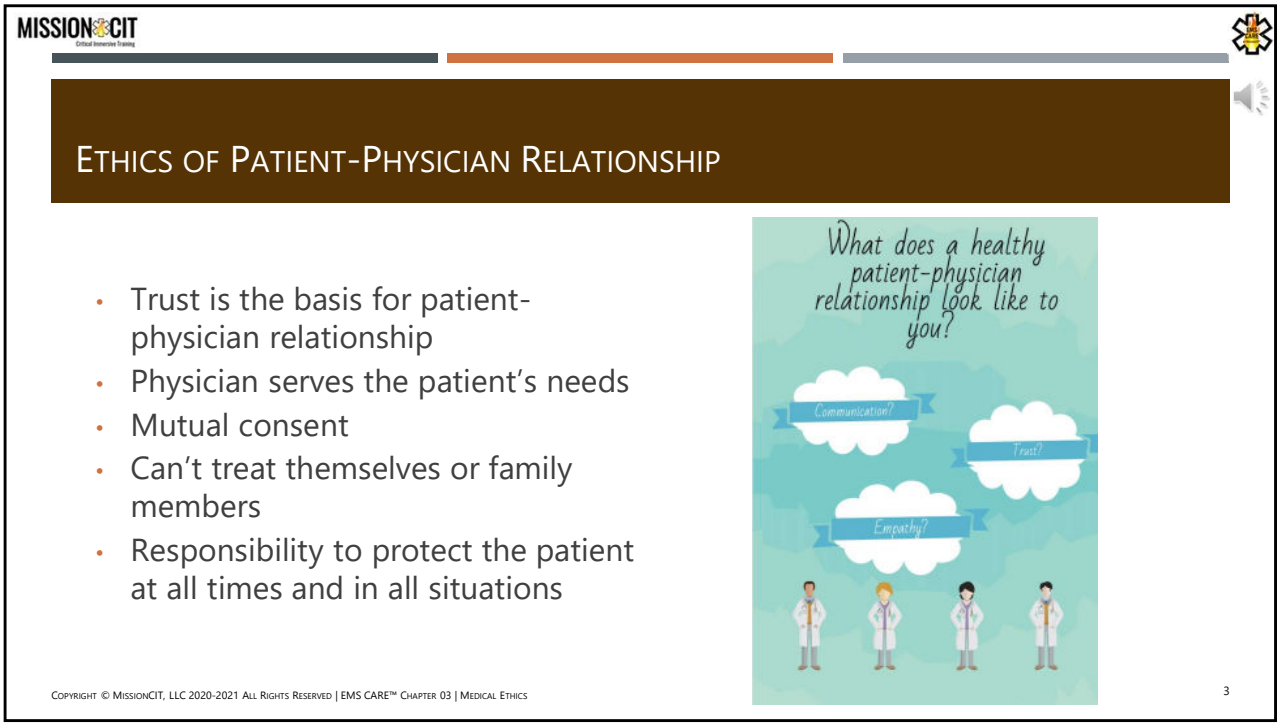


The AMA code is divided into nine principles or components that describe the core ethical responsibilities of the medical profession as a whole. Here are these nine principles.

- Ethics of patient-physician relationship
- Ethics of consent, communication, and decision-making
- Ethics of privacy, confidentiality, and medical records
- Ethics of genetics and reproductive medicine
- Ethics of caring patients at the end of life
- Ethics of organ procurement and transplantation

- Ethics of medical research and innovation
- Ethics of professional self-regulation, and
- Ethics of inter-professional relationships

Now, let’s see what each of these ethics mean.

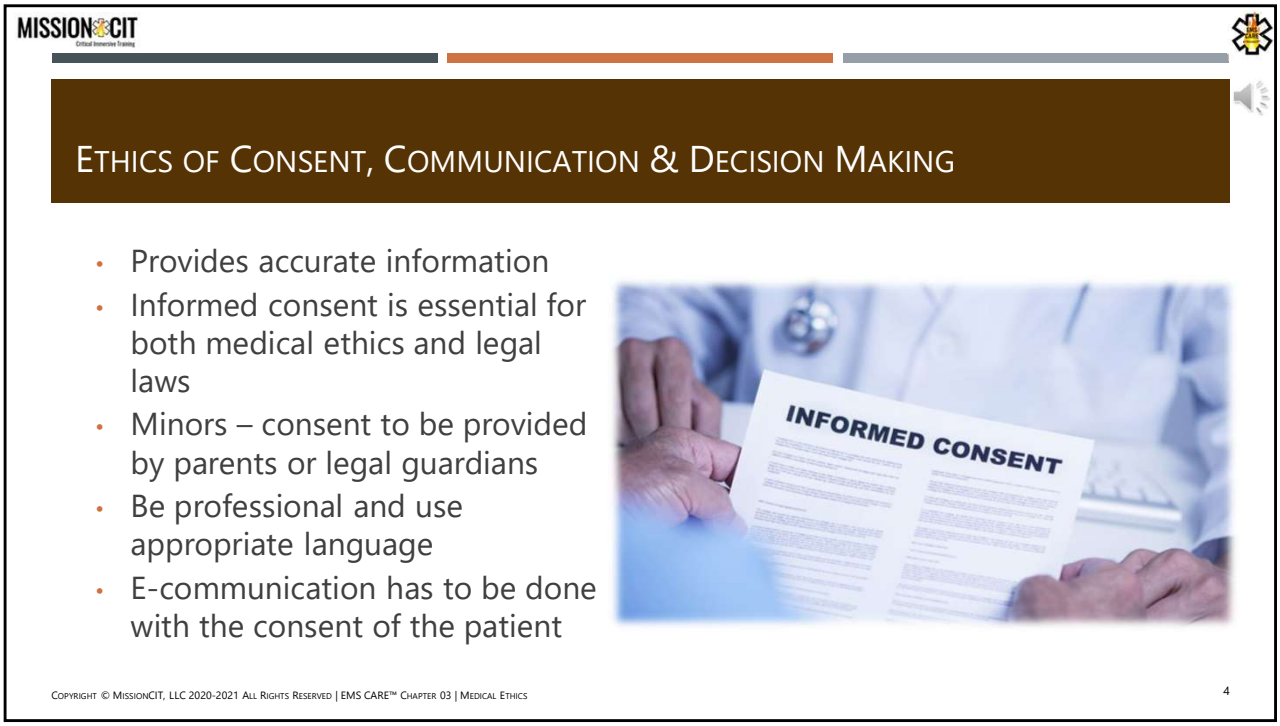


At the heart of all medical care is the trust and relationship between the patient and the physician. This trust gives physicians the ethical responsibility to put the patients' welfare over the physician's self-interest.

A patient-physician relationship exists when a physician serves a patient's medical needs and is entered into by mutual consent between physician and patient (or surrogate). Some exceptions are when a physician treats a patient at the request of the patient's treating physician, provides medical treatment to a prisoner due to a court order, and when a physician examines a

patient in the context of an independent medical examination.

Also, physicians should not treat themselves or members of their own families. Physicians who are employed by businesses or insurance companies, or who provide their medical expertise in sports should protect the health and safety of participants.

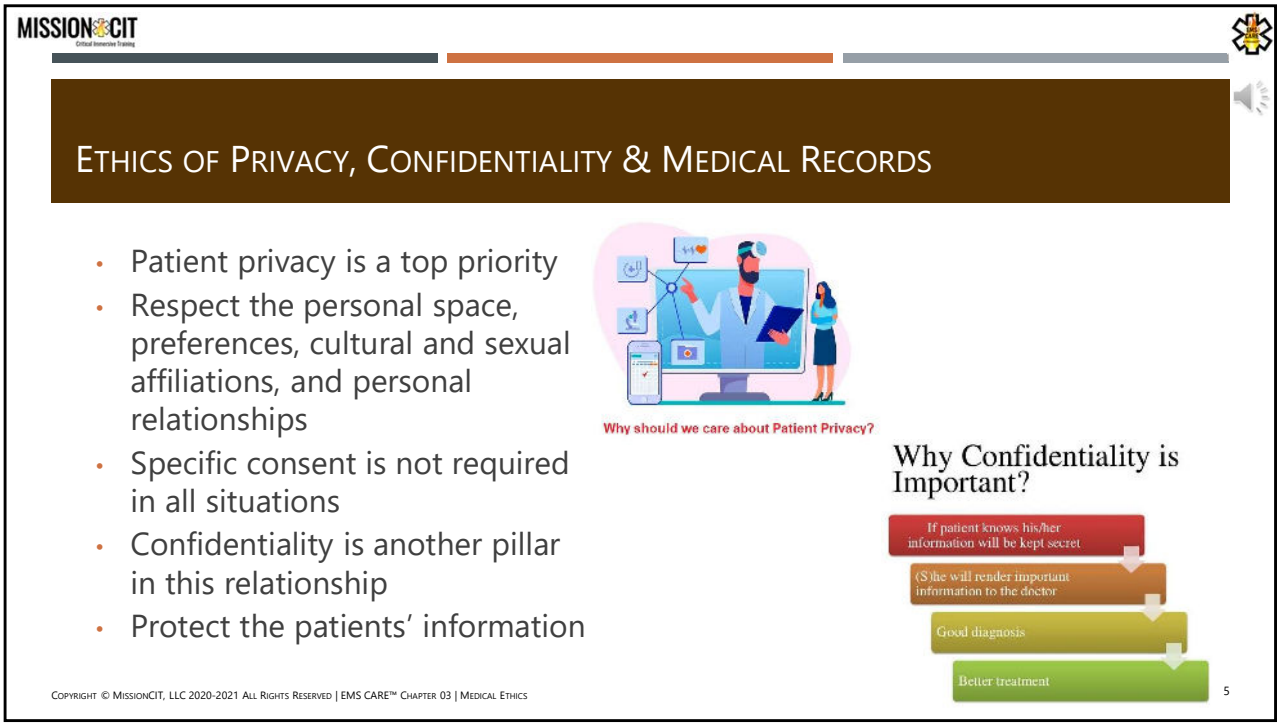


A physician must always provide accurate information to the patients to enable them to make appropriate decisions about their medical treatment. Such informed consent to medical treatment is essential for both medical ethics and legal laws.

When it comes to minors, there is a slight change. They are deemed to be incapable of making informed decisions, so the physician must reach out to the parents or the primary caregiver to get their consent. Besides this, physicians must also inform children in the best way they can to get more participation from the child.

While communicating with patients, parents, and caregivers, physicians are expected to exhibit professionalism, use appropriate language, and must refrain from expressing political views or engaging in charitable endeavors.

Coming to electronic communication, it has to be done with the explicit consent of the patient and in adherence to professional standards.



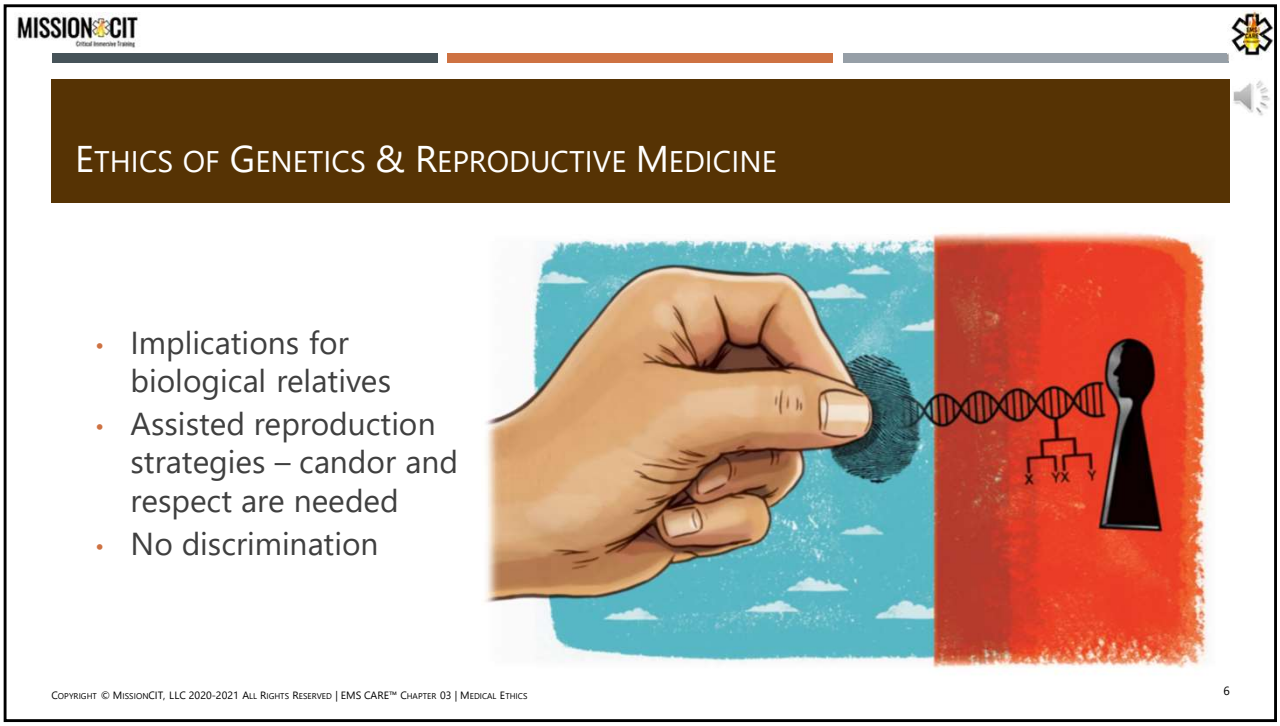
Patient privacy should be a top priority for physicians and at no point should any information be shared with others except with explicit consent from the patient. Also, the physician must respect personal space, preferences, cultural and sexual affiliations, and personal relationships.

In general, patients are entitled to decide whether and to whom their personal health information is disclosed. However, specific consent is not required in all situations.

Confidentiality is another pillar of the patient-physician

relationship as the patient should be able to trust the physician and share information in confidence.

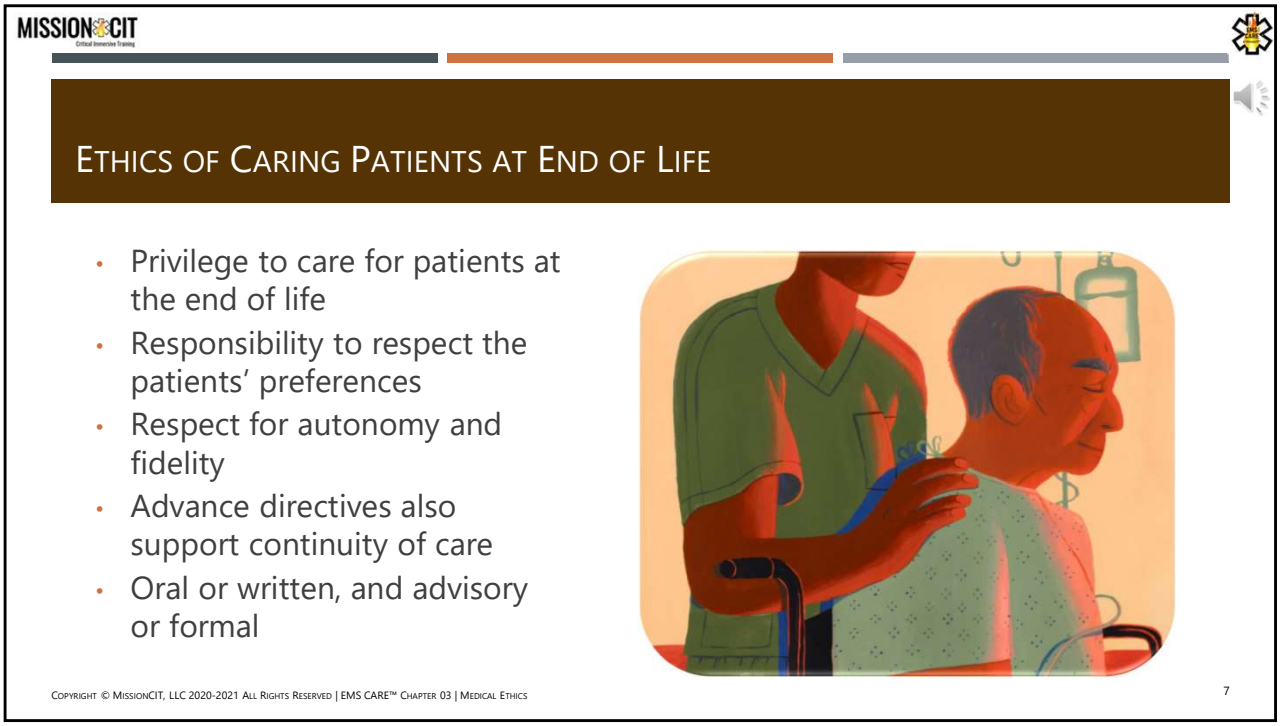
Finally, the medical records are an important document for the current and future medical care, insurance, employment, and other areas. So, the physician and the healthcare organization should do everything possible to protect the patients' information and prevent it from falling into the hands of unauthorized people.



The AMA has prescribed code ethics for genetics and reproductive medicine because they carry implications for those who are biologically related to the patient. Hence, physicians have to strike a balance between the ethical challenges of confidentiality and the well-being of other family members.

Similarly assisted reproduction strategies help patients who want to have a child but are unable to do so naturally. These patients can be psychologically and financially vulnerable, so candor and respect are an integral part of the ethics code. Physicians must value

the well-being of the patient and provide the necessary support. No discrimination must be made in terms of a medical condition, race, color, etc.



Physicians must understand that caring for patients at the end of life is a privilege and at the same time, they have the responsibility to respect the patients' preferences. They must work with such patients to define their goals for care.

Physicians must also work with patients to decide on advance care planning including the decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment, euthanasia, and more.

The AMA states that respect for autonomy and fidelity to the patient are widely acknowledged as core values in

the professional ethics of medicine. For patients who lack decision-making capacity, these values are fulfilled through third-party decision-making and the use of advance directives. Advance directives also support continuity of care for patients when they transition across care settings, physicians, or health care teams.

These advance directives can be oral or written, and advisory or formal. They give patients the power to decide their future treatment, even at a time when they are unable to express it. It is the physician's responsibility to abide by these directives.

Ethics of Organ Procurement & Transplantation

- Demand for organ is more than supply
- Need to protect living and deceased donors
- Identify the potential risks of organ donation
- Secure agreement from all parties
- Inform pregnant women of umbilical cord banking





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The demand for organs far outstrips the supply, so there is a greater responsibility on physicians to protect the interest of both the living and the deceased donors. Also, these organ transplants involve two patients, so both their interests must be protected.

If the donor is a living patient, then the donor must be assigned an advocacy team that includes a physician to protect the well-being of the patient.

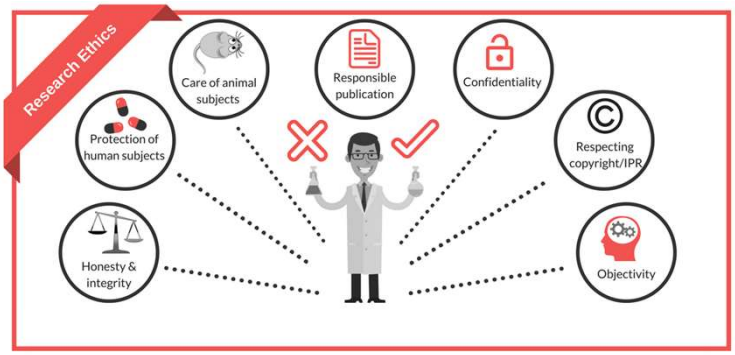
The physician must identify the potential risks of organ donation, address the specific needs of the individual,

and must secure agreement from all parties.

If you’re an obstetrician, you must inform the pregnant woman of the possible options for umbilical cord banking as it can treat various conditions in the child.

Ethics of Research and Innovation

- Protect the rights, safety, identity, and welfare of those who participate in research
- Get informed consent from participants
- Avoid equipment damage
- Respond well to queries of scientific misconduct



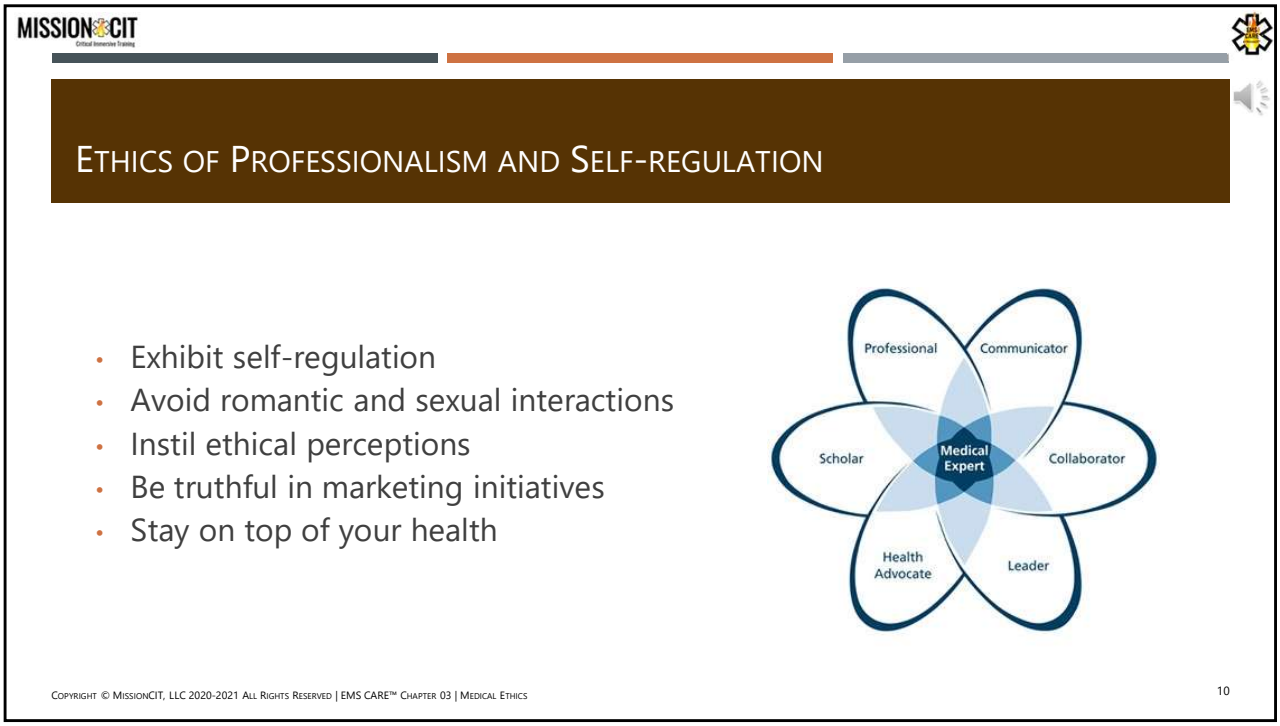
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Physicians who are involved in research and innovation have additional responsibilities to protect the rights, safety, identity, and welfare of those who participate in it.

They must get informed consent from the participants before they are allowed to be a part of the research, and this entails a thorough understanding of the risks involved.

Also, physicians must avoid anything that could damage equipment, and any queries of scientific misconduct must be responded to appropriately.



Physicians are expected to exhibit some self-regulation to ensure that their actions don't detract them from their primary role of providing quality care.

Romantic and sexual interactions must be avoided as they may exploit the vulnerability of the patient and compromise the physician's ability to make appropriate medical judgments.

Also, physicians have the responsibility to instill ethical perceptions by being fair and respectful to co-workers, trainees, patients, and anyone else involved.

Above everything, physicians must stay on top of their health as poor health can impact the effectiveness of the treatment provided.

When it comes to marketing and promotional activities, physicians must be truthful and must ensure that conflicts do not undermine their conduct.



Physicians must uphold professional standards of conduct not only in their relationships with patients but also in their relationships with other health care professionals because there is a shared responsibility towards patient well-being. So, mutual respect and trust are an integral part of these relationships.

The same applies while interacting with people in other professions.

With this, we come to the end of this lesson and in the next one, Missah will take you through the ethics for prehospital care.