

**World Medical Association. Medical Ethics Manual.
Ferney-Voltaire Cedex: The World Medical Association; 2005.
134 pages. ISBN 92-990028-0-0.**

Field of medicine: Medical ethics.

Format: Paperback pocket book.

Audience: Physicians and medical students.

Purpose: The book is specifically intended to reinforce and strengthen the ethical mindset and practice of physicians and provide tools to find solutions to ethical dilemmas. It addresses issues that may arise in different relationships that physicians have with their colleagues, patients, and society, and in medical research.

Content: The book is divided in six chapters. Introduction offers a definition of medical ethics and highlights its importance in medical profession. The first chapter describes how physicians have faced many of the same issues throughout the history and also explains the role of the World Medical Association and other medical organizations in providing ethical guidance to physicians. It acknowledges a substantial disagreement that exists in ethical views between different physicians and between physicians and patients, and presents different approaches to ethical decision-making, so that readers can choose the best way to explain their decisions to others. The second chapter deals with a physician-patient relationship. It covers topics that harbor particularly vexing problems for physicians in their daily practice, such as respect and equal treatment of patients, communication and consent, decision making for incompetent patients, confidentiality, beginning-of-life issues, and end-of-life issues. The third chapter deals with physicians' relationship to society. It provides insight into conflicts between physicians' obligations to patients and to society and also identifies reasons for the conflicts. In this chapter, the reader can also learn to identify and

deal with ethical issues involved in allocating scarce medical resources and to recognize physician's responsibilities toward public and global health. Chapter four is dedicated to relationships among physicians. It describes how physicians should behave towards one another and identifies the main ethical principles of cooperation with others in the care of patients. It explains how to resolve conflicts with other healthcare providers and discusses justifications for reporting unethical behavior of colleagues. The fifth chapter covers ethics in the field of medical research and identifies the main principles of research ethics. The reader is given guidelines on how to balance research and clinical care and how to meet the requirements of ethics review committees. Conclusion in the sixth chapter discusses social and personal responsibilities of physicians, but also reminds the reader of the privileges this profession enjoys.

Highlights: This book covers a universally usable medical ethics curriculum and as such can be used as a teaching resource. Case studies, which illustrate issues covered in each chapter, help readers understand the text more clearly and could be used by teachers to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to their students. A major highlight of this book is that it can be downloaded free-of-charge from the World Medical Association's website (<http://www.wma.net/e/ethicsunit/resources.htm>).

Related reading: There is a long list of additional and related literature listed in the appendices of the book and on the World Medical Association's web pages.

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