

Introduction to Medicine



Department of Medical Humanities

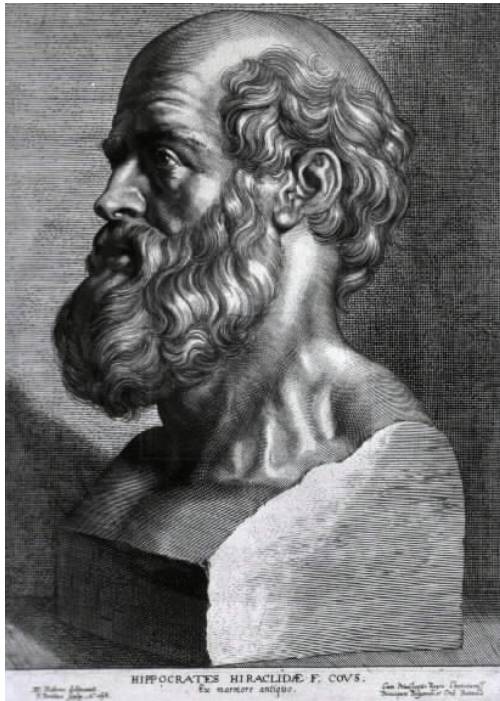
School of Medicine

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All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Medicine is...



Hippocrates



Rod (Staff) of Asclepius

Professionalism

- Professional autonomy of physicians entails responsibility and a well-developed system of rules governing the behaviour of a physician.
- Madrid Declaration

Declaration of Geneva (Physician's Oath)

At the time of being admitted as a member of the medical profession:

I solemnly pledge to consecrate my life to the service of humanity;

I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude that is their due;

I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity;

The health of my patient will be my first consideration;

I will respect the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;

I will maintain by all the means in my power, the honour and the noble traditions of the medical profession;

My colleagues will be my sisters and brothers;

I will not permit considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life;

I will not use my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;

I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honour.

World Medical Association at Geneva in 1948, amended 1968, 1983, 1994, 2005, 2006.

WMA:

The International Code of Medical Ethics

Duties:

GENERAL - strive to use health care resources in the best way to benefit patients and their community

TO PATIENTS - not enter into a sexual relationship with his/her current patient or into any other abusive or exploitative relationship

TO COLLEAGUES - behave towards colleagues as he/she would have them behave towards him/her

WMA Declaration of Lisbon on the Rights of the Patient

- Every person is entitled without discrimination to appropriate medical care.
- The patient has the right to choose freely and change his/her physician and hospital or health service institution, regardless of whether they are based in the private or public sector.
- The patient has the right to refuse to participate in research or the teaching of medicine.
- If the patient is unconscious or otherwise unable to express his/her will, informed consent must be obtained whenever possible, from a legally entitled representative.
- The patient has the right to receive information about himself/herself recorded in any of his/her medical records, and to be fully informed about his/her health status including the medical facts about his/her condition.

World Medical Association in 1981, amended in 1995, 2001.

Confidentiality

- Confidentiality between patients and physicians is the foundation of the diagnostic and therapeutic process.
- It allows the patient to freely say all information concerning his illness or injury that could help set a precise diagnosis and a recommendation for treatment.
- The obligation arises from the accepted medical code of ethics and certain state laws

Development of Doctor Patient relationship

- **Paternalistic model** – patient depends on the doctor's authority.
The basic relationship of doctor and patient is asymmetric.
Belief that patient welfare depends on the doctor's actions, disregarding or ignoring the patient's needs.
- During the second half of the twentieth century the backbone of the relationship is **shared decision making**.

PARADOX - doctor waives his/hers competence.

So the question arises: Does this kind of relationship threaten medical authority?

Contractual relationship is identical to the legal relationship (informed consent)

Informed consent

- Informed consent is a process for getting permission before conducting a healthcare intervention on a person.
- Informed consent is collected according to guidelines from the fields of medical ethics and research ethics.

History of Informed consent

- 1947. – Nuremberg Code
- 1957. – USA case law
- 1964. – Declaration of Helsinki
- 1997. – Introduced in Croatian Law
- 2004. – Patient Protection Act - Croatia

Will a patient trust me as I am only a student?

Students may feel insecure about their role in the treatment of patients.

The basis for trust building is the knowledge that a student started a relationship with honest and sincere intentions.

Honesty is crucial – let the patients know that you're a student training to become a doctor.

The patient may feel closeness to the student and realize that his participation is important for the society.

Conclusion

- There exists an indisputable force which arises from the doctor-patient alliance.
- The patient who entrusts himself to medical care becomes a doctor's moral obligation and duty.
- Compassion, tailored and effective patient care, learning based on experience (practice-based learning), the research and evaluation of the unique needs of patients are the basic competencies that the study of medicine should enable to students (The Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), 2003)

Thank you for your attention!