Ethics in Healthcare

* Historical roots of ethics in health care: Hippocrates
  + 460-375 BCE
  + Did not believe that disease came from god or karma
  + Was opposed to the “inheritance of opportunity”
    - Social fluidity
  + Started the first school of COS and taught physicians
  + Hippocratic Corpus
    - Collection of 60 Greek medical works
  + Hippocratic Oath
    - One of the oldest binding document in history
      * Refers to standards of medical ethics and practice
    - Dictates the obligations of the physician to students of medicine and duties of students to teacher
    - Prescribe only beneficial treatments, according to his abilities and judgement; to refrain from causing harm or hurt; and to live exemplary personal and professional life
    - “Into whatsoever house I enter to help the sick and I will abstain from all intentional wrong-doing and harm…”
  + Challenges & Adaptations
    - A growing number of physicians have come to feel that it is inadequate to address the realities of a medical world
      * Abortion
      * Physician assisted death
    - Fewer than half of oaths taken today insist the taker be held accountable for keeping the pledge
  + Current version of Hippocratic Oath: 1964
    - To fulfill to the best of my ability
    - Respect the hard-won scientific gains
    - Apply for the benefits of the sick
    - Remember there is an art to medicine
    - Not be ashamed to say I know not
    - Respect privacy of my patients
    - Remember to treat the human being
    - Prevent disease
* ETHICS
  + Standards of right and wrong behaviour
  + Code of behaviour or conduct
  + Rights and obligations
  + Values
* Empathy
  + The capacity to understand or feel what another person is experiencg from within their frame of reference—to place oneself in another’s position
* Morals
  + System of beliefs about what is right and wrong
* Values
  + Beliefs important to an individual
  + Personal, social, workplace, professional
  + In health care
    - Thruthfulness
    - Respect for others
    - empathy
    - Compassion
    - Competency
    - Responsibility and the right for autonomy
    - Proper medical care
* Duties
  + obligation s a person has to another’s claims
* Accountability for reasonableness
  + AFR
    - Ethic’s based approach to a legitimate and fair priority-setting process
      * Relevance
      * Publicity
      * revisions/appeals
      * Enforcement
* Ethical Principles and the Health Care Professions
  + Beneficence
  + Nonmaleficence
  + Double effect
  + Respect
  + Autonomy
  + Truthfulness
  + Fidelity
  + Justice
* Justice
  + Distributive justice
    - Equitable and proper distribution of health care resources
  + Compensatory justice
    - Paying of compensation for wrongs done
  + Procedural justice
    - Acting in a fair and impartial manner
    - Not giving preferential treatment to members of society
* Patients’ Rights in health care
  + One’s own medical records
  + Healthcare itself
  + Timely health care
  + Confidentiality
  + Informed consent
* Truthfulness
  + All patients have a right to truth, and healthcare providers have a duty to provide it
* Parental Rights, Ethics, and the Law
  + When children are involved and parents reject medical intervention, the provincial or territorial courts almost always obtain legal custody for the child and allow the recommended treatment.
* Inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility
  + Systemic racism
  + Harmful colonial structures
  + Inclusion
    - Creating environments in which any group can feel welcome
  + Diversity
    - Ensure people with different backgrounds are represented
  + Equity
    - The fair and just treatment of all members of a community
  + Accessibility
* Ethics at Work
  + Code of ethics
* Canadian College of Health Leaders Code of Ethics
  + Key values
    - Public service
    - Integrity
    - Excellence
    - Collaboration
    - Life-long Learning
    - Commitment
    - Accountability
  + Ethics
    - <https://cchl-ccls.ca/document/3023/CCHL_Code_of_Ethics_Self_Evaluation_Tool_ENG.pdf>
  + Code of Ethics (individual)
    - Strive to be exemplary
    - Practice equity and intersectionality
    - Timely communication of rights and info
    - Respect confidentiality
    - Conduct all relationships in a way that prevent conflicts of interest
    - Disclose to authorities
    - Neither accept nor offer personal gifts
    - Refrain from promotion endorsing commercial products
  + Code of Ethics (Organizational)
  + Code of Ethics (professional)
  + Code of Ethics (Community)
* International Medical Informatics Association Code of Ethics
  + Autonomy
  + Equality and Justice
  + Beneficence
  + Non-Malfeasance
  + Impossibility
  + Integrity
* General principles of information ethics
  + Information-privacy and disposition
  + Principle of openness
  + Principle of security
  + Principle of Access
  + Principle of legitimate Infringement
  + Least Intrusive Alternative
  + Accountability
* The Ethics Committee
* Human research ethics
  + UVIC: The Human Research Ethics Board
    - Ensures rights for human participants
* End-of-Life Issues
  + DNRs
  + Patients who wish to withdraw life-saving measures
  + Requesting supportive or palliative care
  + Requesting medical assistance in dying
* Euthanasia
  + Voluntary
  + Involuntary
  + Active
  + Passive (legal)
  + Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) (legal)
* Advanced directives
  + The treatment of a person would want to receive in the event they become unable to make those decisions
* Levels of care upon end-of life measures
  + 1. Stay at home
  + 2. Stay in the facility and receive all treatments
  + 3. Transferred to an acute care facility
    - Cpr protocol
  + 4. Acute care facility for all active measure required to sustain life
* Palliateive Care
  + Addresses the physical and emotional needs of those who are dying
* Allocaiton of Resources
  + Organ transplants
  + Finances and resources
* Abortion
  + Has been legal without restrictions in Canada since 1984
  + Healthcare providers can refuse to preform abortions because of religious or moral beliefs
  + Individuals can self-refer to abortion clinics
* Genetic Testing
  + People can learn whether they carry genes that put them at risk for certain diseases
    - Cancer, Alzheimer’s, Huntington disease
  + Carrier testing
    - Potential exists to pass on genetic disease to offspring
  + Prenatal diagnosing screening
    - Determine a fetus’s risk for certain genetic disorders
    - Aid in earlier diagnosis of fetal abnormalities