

Introduction to Medical Ethics

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Faculty of Medicine

Ethics



Morals



Law



Manners Etiquette

Values



Kelaniya
Medicine

The meanings



Moral principles that govern a person's or group's behavior

ආචාර ධර්ම

ethics (එතික්ස්) n. ආචාර ධමිය,
ආචාර පිළිබඳ ගාස්තුය -
තන්ත්‍රණ නීති. ඉමුණුවියල්
ethical adj.



What is the meaning of moral? සඳහවාරය



A person's standards of behaviour or beliefs concerning what is right and wrong

Values (වටිනාකම)



Principles or standards of behaviour; one's judgement of what is important in life

Etiquette ආචාර



etiquette (උටිකෙට්) ආචාර
සම්පත්ත ශිෂ්ට රිකිය - ආචාර
ඉමුණ්ගු නියති.

The customary code of polite behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession or group.



Manners හැසිරීමේ ලිලාව



social conduct or rules of conduct as shown in the prevalent customs

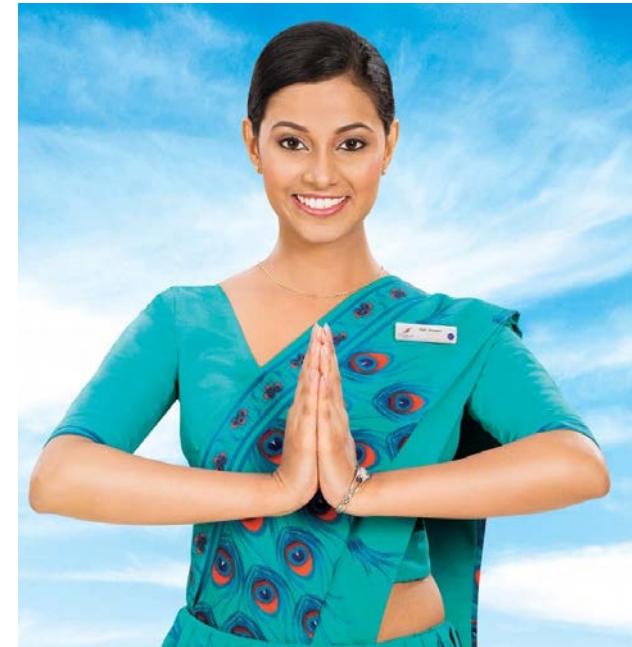
Good & Bad manners

සදාචාරය දුරාචාරය



Kelaniya
Medicine

Sinhalese customary codes



Law

The system of rules that a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and may enforce by the Judiciary and law enforcement forces

law (ලෝ) n. තීක්‍රිය, ආභාව,
පොදු විධිය, ව්‍යවහාර ක්‍රමය,
සුත්‍රය, තීයමය - සට්‍රම,
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Medical Ethics



Medical Law

Medical
Etiquette

Morals of
medical men
and women

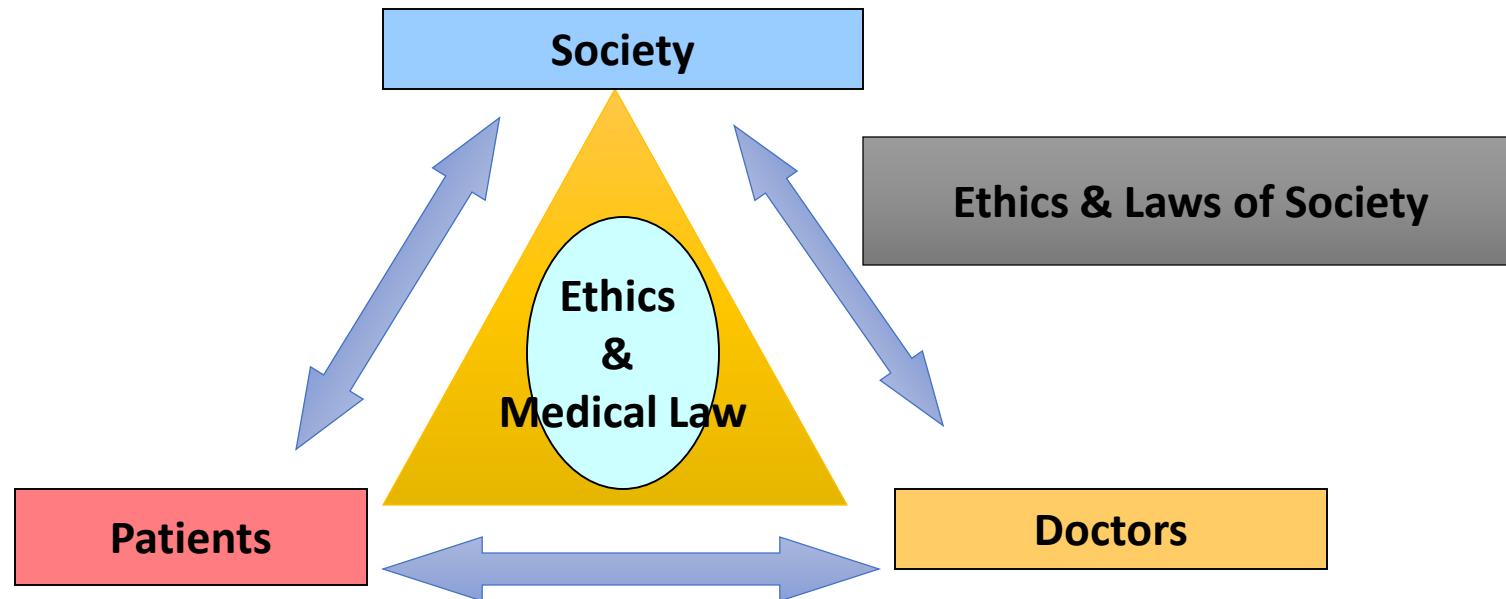
Values of
medical
professionals



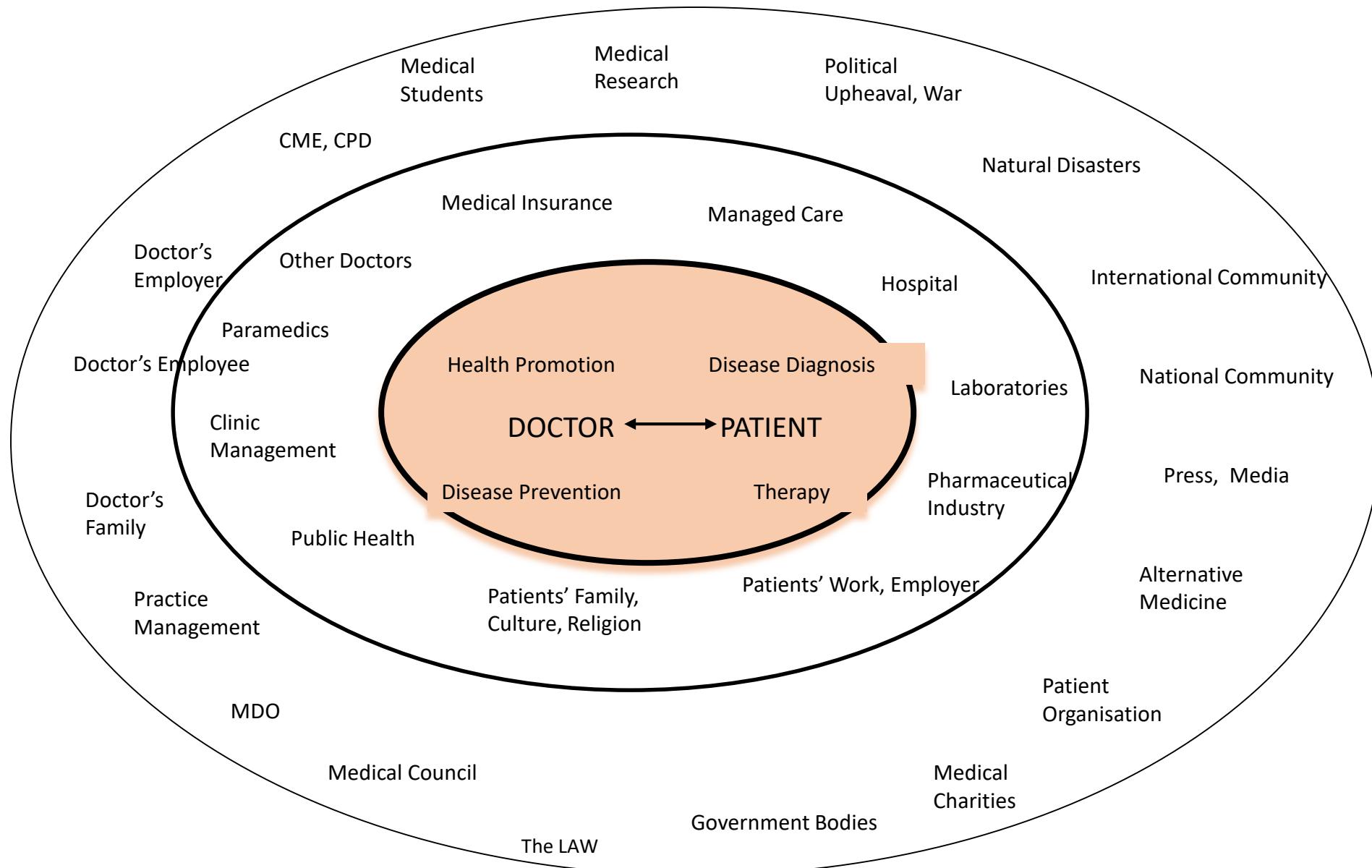
Kelaniya
Medicine

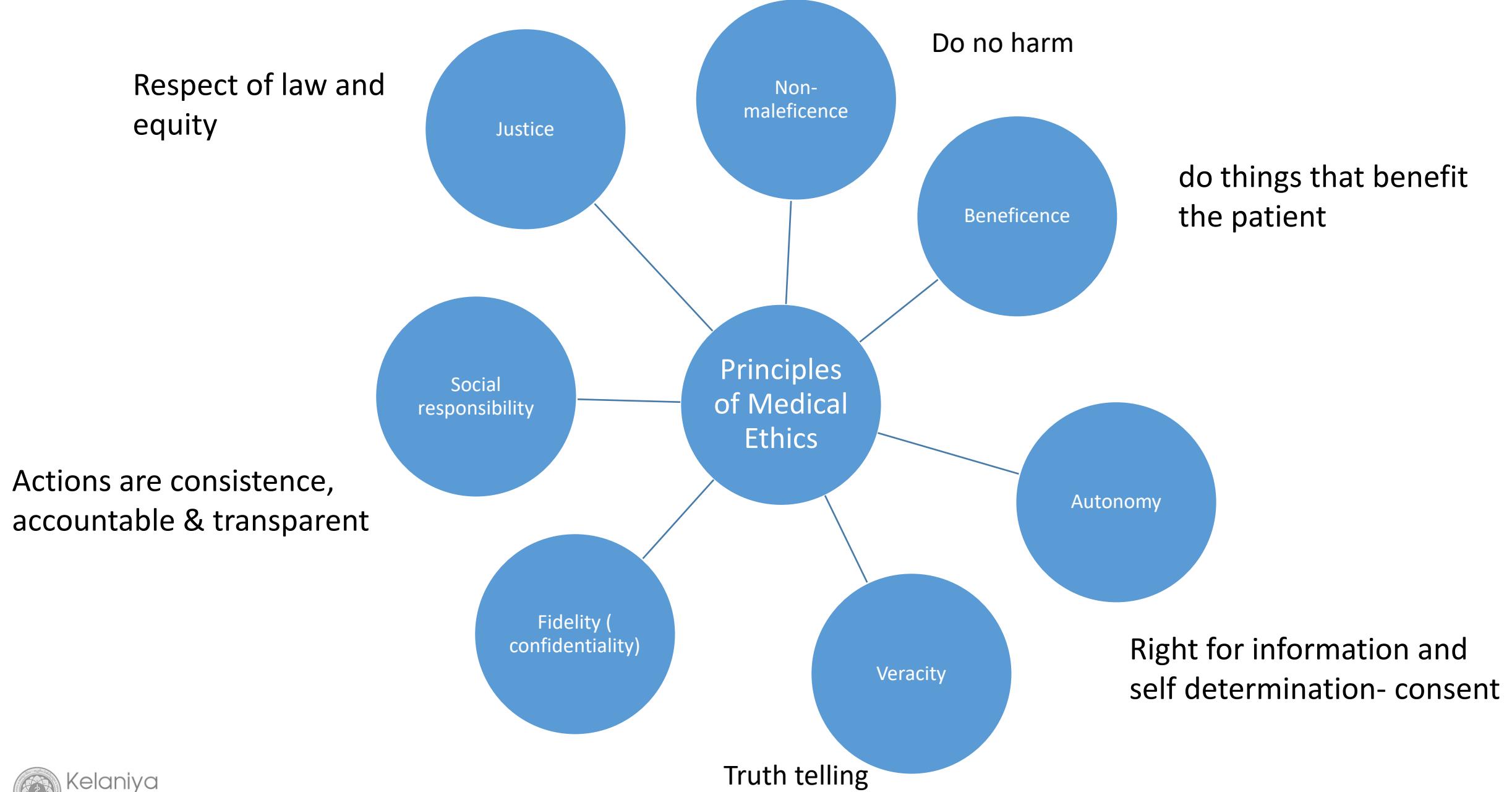
Medicine, Ethics & Medical Laws

Medicine aims at preserving the lives of human beings as long as possible at curing disease and preventing suffering



Medical ethics is a system of principles which guide moral or acceptable conduct in medical care.





Core principles of Medical Ethics and how they work (in Principlism)

A medical practice to be considered "ethical", it must respect all four of these principles



Autonomy “Self rule”



- People have the right to control what happens to their bodies.
- Physicians must respect a patient's right to make decisions regarding his medical care.

Autonomy “Self rule”

- The doctor should inform the patient the details about his/her illness and treatment options
- Competent, informed patients have the right to choose among treatment options and refuse any unwanted medical interventions.
- By providing informed consent and following patients' wishes, physicians demonstrate their respect for the patient's autonomy.

Non-maleficence “do no harm”



- is the bedrock of medical ethics.
- In every situation, healthcare providers should avoid causing harm to their patients.



Beneficence “to do good”

- All healthcare providers must strive to improve their patient’ s health, to do the most good for the patient in every situation.
- To do good:
 - Health care providers has to develop and maintain skills and knowledge
 - continually update new knowledge and training

Doctrine of *double effect*

- A treatment intended for good unintentionally causes harm.
- Therefore when making choices the effect of good has to be weighed against causing harms

Justice

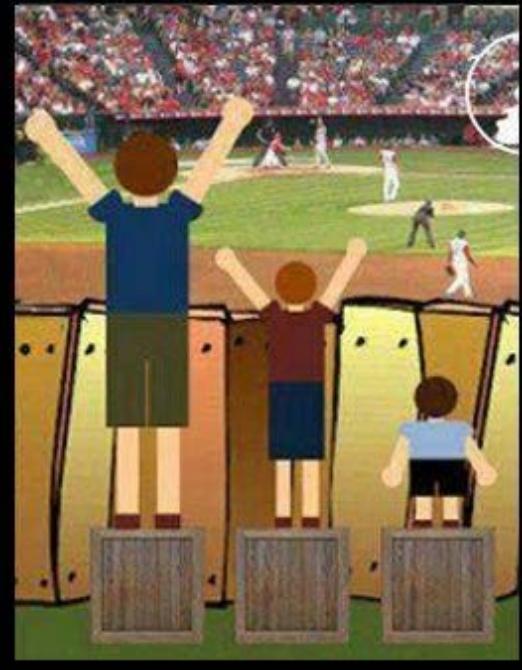


Has two component

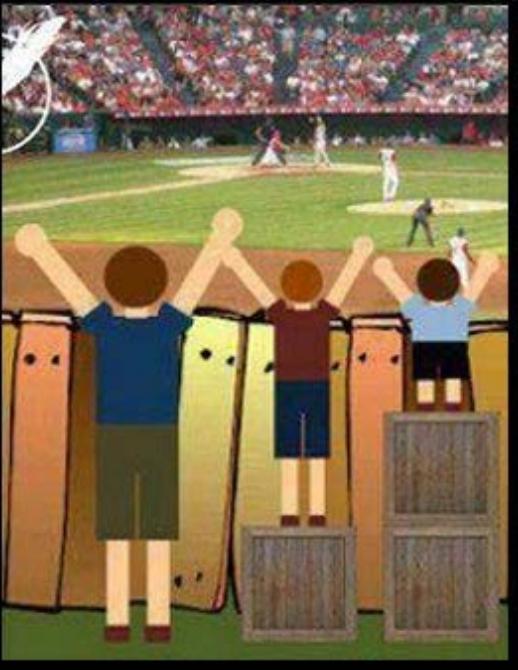
- Equality සමානතාව
- Fair සාධාරණය



Equality

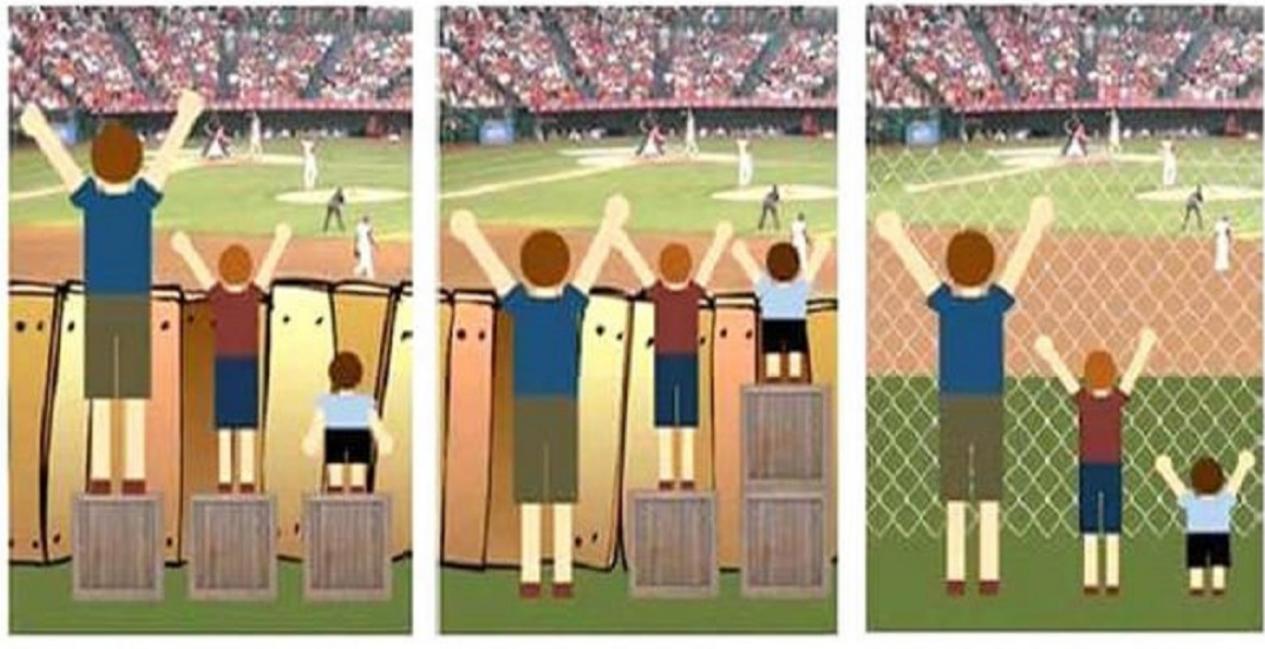


Equity



සමානාත්මකාවය
සාධාරණත්වය

Removing Barriers



Kelaniya
Medicine

Justice

- Be as fair as possible when offering treatments and allocating scarce medical resources.
- Physicians should treat similarly situated patients similarly and allocate resources justly.
- In the face of limited health care resources, physicians should practice cost-effective medicine.
- Physicians should make recommendations and decisions based on ethically pertinent considerations.

Medical etiquettes



How do medical ethics differ from medical etiquette

- Medical ethics means principles which guide moral or acceptable conduct in medical care.
- Medical etiquette, is the code of practices that governs socially acceptable behaviour for medical practitioners. (how medical professionals conducts themselves)



Medical ethics guides behaviour by principles, whereas medical etiquette guides behaviour by convention.

Eg: Medical Coat



Medical Etiquettes

- Greeting/ communicating/ relationship with patients/ colleges/ community
- Personal grooming / Dress codes
- Dealing with patient
- Dealing with colleagues (No charges for doctors/ medical students/ nurses/ family)
- Dealing with greater society

Personal Grooming



Specific way of living/ work



Dress Codes / behaviors/ associations

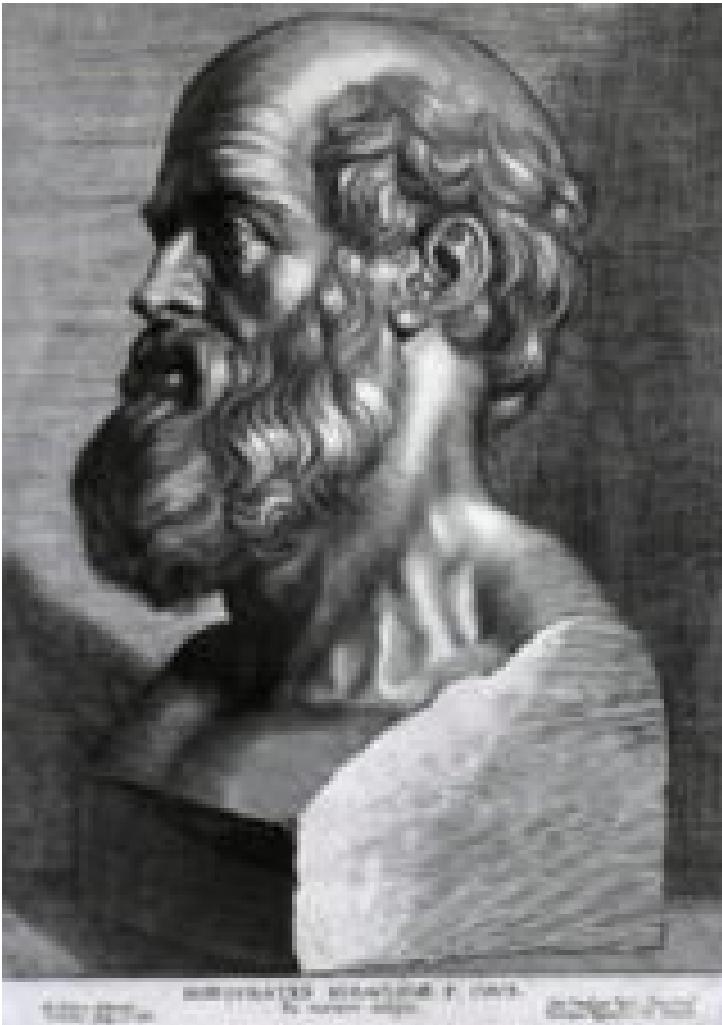
- Medical Student: Pre-clinical , Para Clinical, Professorial
 - Field work, meetings, Exams
- Doctor- Grade medical officers, Consultants
- Professional Meeting: official
- Scientific Forums/ Work shops: Official
- Personal life

History of Codes of Practices for Physicians

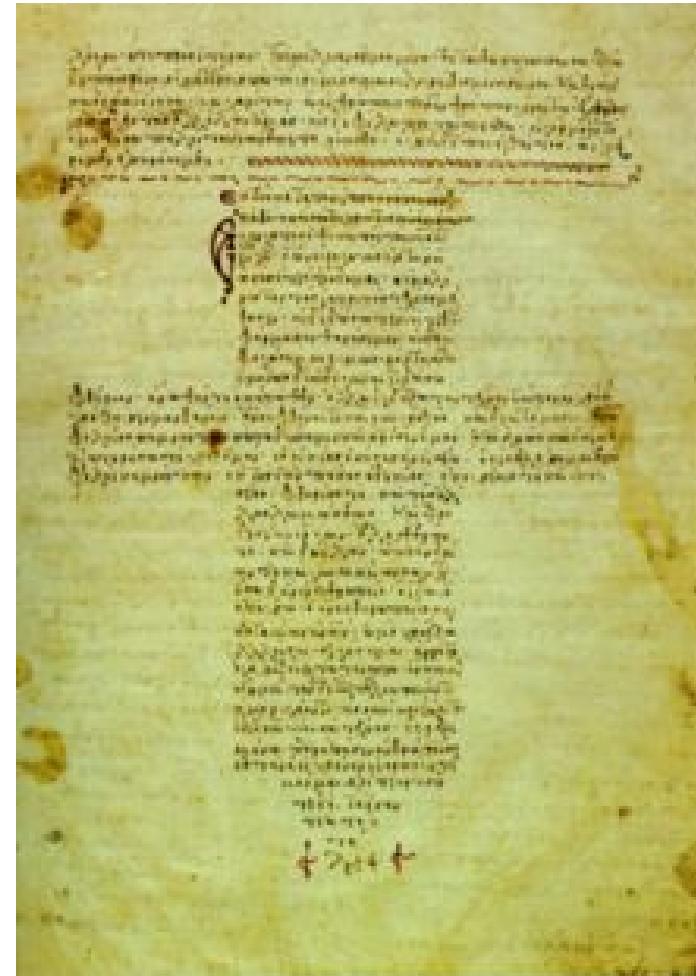
- In ancient times Medicine was practiced by priests
- Ethical guidelines were linked to religious practices
- Both Eastern & Western Medicine had ethics which was keeping with the society that time
 - Code of Hammurabi : Babilonia
 - Indian/ Aruvedic medicine : Teaching of Shrughnatha
 - Chinese Medicine: Confucian teachings
 - Greece: Hippocratic oath

Hippocratic oath : basis for western medical ethics

- An oath traditionally taken by physicians pertaining to the ethical practice of medicine
- Oath was written by Hippocrates, the father of medicine, in the 4th century BC, or by one of his students



Engraving of Hippocrates by
[Peter Paul Rubens](#), 1638



A [twelfth-century Byzantine](#)
manuscript of the Oath in the
form of a [cross](#).



The Oath of Hippocrates

SWEAR by Apollo the physician, and Aesculapius, and Health, and All-heal, and all the gods and goddesses, that, according to my ability and judgment, I will keep this Oath and this stipulation — to reckon him who taught me this Art equally dear to me as my parents, to share my substance with him, and relieve his necessities if required; to look upon his offspring in the same footing as my own brothers, and to teach them this art, if they shall wish to learn it, without fee or stipulation; and that by precept, lecture, and every other mode of instruction, I will impart a knowledge of the Art to my own sons, and those of my teachers, and to disciples bound by a stipulation and oath according to the law of medicine, but to none others. ¶ I will follow that system of regimen which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to any one if asked, nor suggest any such counsel; and in like manner I will not give to a woman a pessary to produce abortion. With purity and with holiness I will pass my life and practise my Art. ¶ I will not cut persons labouring under the stone, but will leave this to be done by men who are practitioners of this work. Into whatever houses I enter, I will go into them for the benefit of the sick, and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption; and, further, from the seduction of females or males, of freemen and slaves. ¶ Whatever, in connexion with my professional practice, or not in connexion with it, I see or hear, in the life of men, which ought not to be spoken of abroad, I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret. While I continue to keep this Oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practise of the art, respected by all men, in all times! But should I trespass and violate this Oath, may the reverse be my lot!

From The Genuine Works of Hippocrates translated from the Greek by Francis Adams, Surgeon, volume 2, London, 1849

The above oath attributed to Hippocrates (460-370 B.C.) is an early code of ethics establishing those high principles of conduct which have characterized the art of medicine. We can apply the teachings of this Greek physician to modern practice with but slight modifications. ¶ It is suggested that the student consult the monograph entitled *The Doctor's Oath*, by W.H. S. Jones, Cambridge University Press, 1924.

White Coat Ceremony



Hippocratic Oath (Modern version)

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk,
and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures which are required, avoiding those
twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism.

I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth,
sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.

I will not be ashamed to say "I know not," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the
skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.

I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that
the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death.
If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a
life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness
of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God.

I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human
being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. My
responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick.

I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my
fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and
remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest
traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my
help.



What is practice today

- Hippocratic oath restated to suite the present time introduced by World Medical Association
- This is called the Declaration of Geneva
- Amended at Stockholm 1994
- Provides the basis for International Code of Medical Ethics

Declaration of Geneva

- All governing bodies of medical professions have adopted this oath
- Sri Lanka Medical Council had adopted this and now known as Medical Practitioner' s Oath
- Is administered by Registrar/Asst. Registrar/President/Vice President or Designated Member of the SLMC

Medical Practitioner' s Oath

I, Dr..... of
(Address)..... At the time of
being admitted as a member of the medical
profession solemnly pledge myself to
dedicate my life to the service of humanity

- The Health of my patient will be my primary consideration and I **will not use my profession for exploitation and abuse of my patient**;
- I will practice my profession with **conscience, dignity, integrity** and **honesty**
- I will **respect the secrets** which are confided in me, even after the patient has died;

- I will give to my **teachers** the respect and gratitude, which is their due;
- I will maintain by all means in my power, the **honour and noble traditions** of the medical profession;
- I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics, caste or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient;

- I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from its beginning even under threat and I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity;
- I make the promise solemnly, freely and upon my honour.
- Signature Date.....
-Signature of Registrar/Asst Registrar/President/Vice president/Designated Member

(Guideline on Ethical conduct for medical and dental Practitioners 2003)

Journey for the Physicians oath

- Entrance to Medical Faculty: The most difficult course in any University
- Starting Clinical (White Coat Ceremony)
- Passing Exams
- Good behaviors/ No criminal Record
- Sign the Oath / read the oath
- Medical Council Provisional Registration
- Internship – good behavior/ No criminal record
- Full registration
- Practice the Oath

Ceremonial Oath Sri Lanka 2017



Codes of Medical Ethics

- International Code of Medical Ethics (amended 1983)
- Declaration of Helsinki (1964,1996)- Bio-medical Research
- Declaration of Oslo- (1970, 1983) Abortion
- Declaration of Tokyo- (1975) Torture

Medical Law

- A branch of law concerned with the legal rights and responsibilities of both patients and medical care providers.
- It may include a wide variety of topics, but is considered to have three primary branches:
 - Consent & confidentiality
 - Medical Negligence
 - Criminal Laws

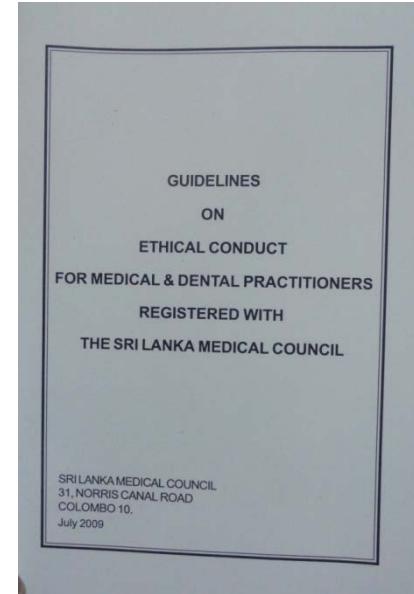
To produce a medical graduate
who will adhere to basic ethical
practices of the profession
during his/her carrier

Summary

- Medical ethics is a system of principles which guide moral or acceptable conduct in medical care.
- Core Principles of Medical Ethics are
 - Autonomy
 - Beneficence
 - Non- malificence
 - Justice
- Codes of Medical Ethics are
 - Hippocratic Oath
 - Medical Practitioners Oath
 - International Code of Medical Ethics
- Medical Law
 - Consent/ confidentiality
 - Medical Negligence
 - Criminal law

Further reading

1. <http://www.srilankamedicalcouncil.org/>
2. <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>
3. Guidelines on Ethical conduct for Medical and Dental Practitioners registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council –2009
4. Law & Medical Ethics-5th Edition, JK Mason, RA McCall Smith GT Laurie





There are men
and classes of
men that stand
above the
common
herd.....

Physician the
finest flower of
civilization

R.L. Stevenson



Thank
you



Kelaniya
Medicine