

**Code of Ethics for Students of Health Programs
at Ibn Sina National College for Medical Studies**

Index:

Introduction about medical ethics

Ethics and health education

Ethics and clinical health practice

Ethics and scientific research

Introduction about Medical Ethics

Health education depends to great extent on professional health practice. This requires achieving conditions of academic curricula in all programs of Ibn Sina National College for Medical Studies. Such requirements include:

1. Knowledge
2. Skill
3. Medical Behavior & Ethics

Medical ethics were influenced recently with several factors so it is important to pay attention to medical ethics as follows:

1. The biological information revolution that can be witnessed and the new techniques of diagnosis and treatment and emergence of several sensitive issues.
2. Excessive increase of treatment costs and entrance of costly techniques in view of rapid decrease of government spending which subject health practitioners in difficult practical and moral situations.
3. Severe competition among the increasing number of health practitioners and the attempts to market medical services and the huge interest in financial benefit regardless of moral values.
4. Increase of awareness in society about patients' rights. This is noticeable through the increase of lawsuits of medical liability against health practitioners to claim compensation for errors during practicing profession.

Ethics and Health Education

The issue of health occupations ethics was and still is one of the most important issues especially after the radical changes during the last period due to development of technological, epidemic, social, and geographical changes. The marketing to protect consumers led to the appearance of many moral problems. The relation between health practitioners and patients requires that the health practitioner do their utmost to serve the patient and at the same time the patient has to accept health practitioner's work.

Hence, Sina National College for Medical Studies is proud of its students and asks everyone to commit with the positive regulations and behaviors springing out of our sublime Islamic values and international ethical regulations of health practice as follows:

Honesty & Reliability

1. Honesty with patients and care of their rights
2. Maintaining the academic values and principles and respecting college regulations.
3. Not providing or receiving illegal activity unless permitted by law.
4. Recording the medical history of patient accurately and caring to follow and note down the physical examination and lab investigations related to patient care and keeping such information secret.
5. Conducting scientific researches in a moral method without bias while writing reports honestly.
6. Respecting confidentiality and secrecy in principle in all relations with patients and others.
7. Maintaining examinations integrity and secrecy in compliance with academic regulations

Respecting Others

1. Respecting all instructors and employees of the college and keeping their dignity and feelings and maintaining motivating learning environment.
2. Respecting patients' decisions in all cases.
3. Respecting patients and their relatives and keeping their dignity.
4. Dealing with patients on the basis of respect and equality and not discriminating them based on racial or social or other aspects.

Responsibility

1. Keeping good behavior and committing with legal and formal regulations.
2. Committing with the college uniform and the health conditions of wearing (gloves and coats) and following the principles and criteria of sterilization.
3. Exerting efforts to form knowledge, skill, and behavior in order to provide the necessary help and aid to serve patients.

4. Seeking help when needed, from those who are more experienced in the treatment of patients.
5. Not seeking to exploit patients, colleagues, or their relatives to make personal or illegal benefit.
6. Putting patient care as the priority of my career.
7. Not conducting any deed or behavior that contradicts our Islamic values, morals or affects the academic, professional position or clinical liabilities.
8. Striving to report concerned authorities about any unprofessional abuse or incompetent practices whenever recognized without compromising or undermining the reputation of others, the care team and academic research.

Ethics and Clinical Health Practice

It is known the necessity of health colleges' students to communicate with different classes of persons. So, in this section we shall review in brief the role of Ibn Sina National College for Medical Studies in applying clinical ethical practices within the international criteria including:

First: The Relation between Student/ Health Practitioner and Society

The occupation of student/ health practitioner is not limited in their relation to patients, colleagues, or other staff in the health field. However, it extends to include the surrounding society.

That the patient sees in the student/ health practitioner aid and hope. Many patients consult student/ health practitioner about their private problems and listen to their advice as if they take effective medicine. In many situations, student/ health practitioner becomes a friend of the patient and his family. So, the social role extends the health limit to give a helping hand and taking part in happy and sad occasions and through giving advice.

So, there are requirements that student/ health practitioner has to do towards society including:

1. Knowledge and skill in the academic and practical aspects. Health practice is not just a science but also an art and skill.
2. Humanity: one of most important characteristics of health student/ practitioner is care about patient's humanity when treating them.
3. Being jovial in behavior
4. That the health student/ practitioner must believe in Allah and commit with values, honesty, and sincerity.
5. Fostering trust with the patient
6. Reviewing the latest updates of sciences and knowledge and keeping up with development.
7. Committing with principles and ethics of health practice.
8. The health student/ practitioner exhibits ability and professionalism in order to earn the patient's trust and confidence.
9. Intelligence and Common Sense: that the ideal health student/ practitioner is a good speaker; selects their words and knows their implications and their effect on the patient.
10. Care about society's health through suitable health awareness and participating in preventive programs and environment protection.
11. The health student/ practitioner have to participate in the study of solving health programs and support the role of health bodies to enrich service for public favor. They also have to cooperate with the concerned authorities with regard to the necessary data to draw the health polices and plans.
12. The health student/ practitioner in their position dedicates their efforts for Allah's pleasure and society's service with all potentials and powers in peace and war conditions.
13. Immediate notification in case of any suspect of epidemic disease in order to take the necessary precautions to protect society.

Second: the Relation between Health Student/ Practitioner

The relation between health student/ practitioner and patient is important including:

1. Tenderness which is considered one of the most important features of health practice. It is important to strengthen the professional and ethical relations. It makes the patient trust that the best shall be done for his sake. Such feeling helps patients to get cured.
2. Putting the patient's health above any considerations besides respecting him and dealing him equally.
3. Introducing the health student/ practitioner with himself, rank, and position.
4. Getting the patient permission before examination and treating him gently during examination.
5. Committing with legal regulations when examining patients.
6. Paying attention not to be alone with patients from the other sex (male or female).
7. Paying attention to the legal regulations when examining patient's sexual organs and limiting exposure as necessitates only.
8. That the patient is to be given the right to make the decision related to treatment means assigned by the legal and ethical authorities. The patient has the right to make such decision as well as the right to accept or reject the proposed diagnosis means for treatment. In addition, he has the right to know the reasons for examination, treatment, and the consequences of rejecting the proposed treatment. The health student/ practitioner has to tell them about such consequences. For patients who are not eligible to make decisions, there must be a legal representative for them who may be the health student/ practitioner or other party.

Third: The relation between health student/ practitioner and colleges and health practitioners in health sectors

This aspect is not any less important than the previous ones on which the rights and duties of health profession are based. The relation between health student/ practitioner and colleges and health practitioners must be built on a base of affability, love, respect, and reciprocal trust. There are several points to take into consideration in this relation and they are as follows:

1. Rights and Duties

Health student/ practitioner has to enjoy good conduct and deal with colleagues with respect and fraternity. He/she must build such relation on love, fraternity, respect, and reciprocal trust. He/she has to avoid direct criticism of colleagues before patients regardless to his/her reasons. He/she also has to consider the legal regulations when dealing with colleagues.

2. Consultation & Medical Instructions Acceptance

Health student/ practitioner should not be shy of taking advice from colleagues in any problem that may affect negatively on patients. Meanwhile, he/she has to respond in case any colleague asks for his/her help.

3. Response to Clinical Examinations & Commitment with their Standards

Health student/ practitioner has to respond to clinical examinations that measure his/her abilities and potential and guide him to the weaknesses. He also has to commit with examinations standards and not breach them.

4. Colleagues & Patients Safety

A Colleague may do something that affects the safety of practice and patient safety such as the infection of an infectious disease or otherwise. In this case, advice must be given to this colleague. In case of disagreement, the situation must be reported to the concerned authorities for further examination and make the suitable decision.

Ethics & Academic Research

Ibn Sina National College for Medical Studies is keen on developing the academic research skills of its students as well as providing the appropriate infrastructure for the college members' service.

The college pays great attention to commit with the following regulations when conducting scientific researches in the college and its different facilities.

1. Asking the voluntary approval from patients before being subject to researches to keep their rights and ensuring that such researches are carried based on their agreement.
2. Every medical research conducted on patients must be approved by an independent ethical committee. Researchers have to explain the research objectives and the mechanisms and methods to be followed and explaining them. Researchers also have to explain the methods followed to get the volunteers' approval and the guarantees to protect them as well as the financial resources and potential of interest conflict.
3. The scientific value of the research to be carried on patients must be stated.
4. The social value added by the research is to be stated.
5. The risks and benefits must be stated. Researchers must prove that the risks of the research are limited in the permitted frame compared to the desired benefit.
6. Secrecy must be followed. Patients subject to medical experiments must get the same level of secrecy of other patients with regard to their health information.
7. If breach of academic research ethics comes to one's attention, one has to inform the concerned authorities at once in order to look in the matter.

Finally, the college puts the code of students' behavior that has been approved in the fourth session of Board of Trustees in 1435/1436 H according to which penalties and procedures that are applied to the college students.