SECTION - III

MEDICAL ETHICS & MEDICAL EDUCATION

Sensitization and Practice

Introduction

There is now a shift from the traditional individual patient, doctor relationship, and medical care. With the advances in science and technology and the needs of patient, their families and the community, there is an increased concern with the health of society. There is a shift to greater accountability to the society. Doctors and health professionals are confronted with many ethical problems. It is, therefore necessary to be prepared to deal with these problems. To accomplish the Goal (ii), General Objectives (ii) stated in Chapter II (pages 2.1 to 2.3), and develop human values it is urged that ethical sensitization be achieved by lectures or discussion on ethical issues, clinical case discussion of cases with an important ethical component and by including ethical aspects in discussion in all case presentations, bedside rounds and academic postgraduate programs.

Course Contents

1. Introduction to Medical Ethics

   What is Ethics?
   What are values and norms?
   Relationship between being ethical and human fulfillment
   How to form a value system in one’s personal and professional life
   Heteronymous Ethics and Autonomous Ethics
   Freedom and personal Responsibility

2. Definition of Medical Ethics

   Difference between medical ethics and bio-ethics
   Major Principles of Medical Ethics
   Beneficence = fraternity
   Justice = equality
   Self determination (autonomy) = liberty

3. Perspective of Medical Ethics

   The Hippocratic Oath
   The Declaration of Helsinki
   The WHO Declaration of Geneva
   International code of Medical Ethics (1993)
   Medical Council of India Code of Ethics
4. Ethics of the Individual
   The patient as a person
   The Right to be respected
   Truth and confidentiality
   The autonomy of decision
   The concept of disease, health and healing
   The Right to health
   Ethics of Behavior modification
   The Physician – Patient relationship
   Organ donation

5. The Ethics of Human life
   What is human life?
   Criteria for distinguishing the human and the non-human
   Reasons for respecting human life
   The beginning of human life
   Conception, contraception
   Abortion
   Prenatal sex-determination
   In vitro fertilization (IVF), Artificial Insemination by Husband (AIH)
   Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID)
   Surrogate motherhood, Semen Intra fallopian Transfer (SIFT),
   Gamete Intra fallopian Transfer (GIFT), Zygote Intra fallopian Transfer (ZIFT),
   Genetic Engineering

6. The family and society in Medical Ethics
   The Ethics of human sexuality
   Family Planning perspectives
   Prolongation of life
   Advanced life directives – The Living Will
   Euthanasia
   Cancer and Terminal Care

7. Profession Ethics
   Code of conduct
   Contract and confidentiality
   Charging of fees, Fee-splitting
   Prescription of drugs
   Over-investigating the patient
   Low – Cost drugs, vitamins and tonics
   Allocation of resources in health cares
   Malpractice and Negligence
8. Research Ethics
   Animal and experimental research / humanness
   Human experimentation
   Human volunteer research – Informed Consent
   Drug trials
   ICMR Guidelines for Ethical Conduct of Research – Human and Animal
   ICH / GCP Guidelines
   Schedule Y of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

9. Ethical work up of cases
   Gathering all scientific factors
   Gathering all human factors
   Gathering value factors
   Identifying areas of value – conflict, setting of priorities,
   Working our criteria towards decisions

Recommended Reading

1. Francis C. M., Medical Ethics, 2nd Ed, 2004Jaypee Brothers, Bangalore/
2. Ethical guidelines for biomedical research on human participants, ICMR publication 2006
3. Santosh Kumar: the elements of research, writing and editing 1994, Dept of Urology, JIPMER, Pondicherry
4. Srinivas D.K etal, Medical Education Principles and Practice, 1995, National Teacher Training Centre, JIPMER, Pondicherry
5. Indian National Science Academy, Guidelines for care and use of animals in scientific Research, New Delhi, 1994

11. Tejinder Singh Anshu, Principles of Assessment in Medical Education, Jaypee brothers


18. Lucinda Becker Pan Demicolo, Teaching in higher education, (S) SAGE, 2013.

19. C.N. Prabhakara, Essential Medical Education (Teachers Training), Mehta publishers.


21. R.L.Bijlani, Medical Research, Jaypee Brothers, 2008

