



Ethics In Dentistry

By

Dr. Lamia Al-Azzaawi

Leave the dental world better than you found it

- Greeting a person with a smile
- Showing concern for a patient
- Make dentistry every day better than you found it



Definition

Ethics. It is the branch of philosophy which deals with the consideration of human conduct. It is the moral duties and obligations of a dentist towards his/her patients professional colleagues and society.

Principles of Dental Ethics

- ❖ To be decent or good
- ❖ Do not harm any one(maltreatment)
- ❖ Autonomy i-e independence
- ❖ Justice
- ❖ Truthfulness
- ❖ Confidentiality

To do good (beneficence)

Beneficence refers to the principle of promoting or doing good

Dentist should always think about welfare of the patient by putting his best interests as priority. The expectation of the patient is that the care provider will initiate beneficial action and that there is an agreement between the dentist and the patients

To do no harm (non –maleficence)

Dentist duty is not harming the patients by using unsterilized instruments ,under filling or over filling ,carelessness in handling hard and soft tissues which can harm the patients.

Autonomy (Self Governance)

- Information given should be easily understood
- Dentist should educate the patient to his/her best regarding patient's desire
- Respect the patient's right to self determination and confidentiality



Justice (fairness).

Dentist should treat patient fairly without discrimination of socio-economic ,race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

Truthfulness or Veracity.

- Dentist should not represent the care being rendered(perform) to their patients in a false or confusing manner.
- Dentist –patient relationship based on mutual trust.
- Patient expect the dentist to be truthful about the information given
- Concerning the treatment and prognosis.

Confidentiality(privacy)

- Any information revealed by the patient to the dentist will not be given without the patient's consent. There should be an understanding between the dentist and patient.
- Gossip(talk) about the patient specially if he is some one famous or friend will break the bond of trust between the dental professional and the patient.

Duties Towards Colleagues

- ❖ Should not make disapproving comments of the procedures or qualification of colleagues
- ❖ Regard it as pleasure to render cost-free services to another dentist his immediate family members
- ❖ Institute correct treatment at once with the least comment

Duties towards patients

- ❖ The welfare of the patient should be the top priority
- ❖ Observe timekeeping in fulfilling appointments
- ❖ Race, Religion, Nationality or relation not interfere in providing the best available services
- ❖ Keep knowledge current dental and medical records of patients
- ❖ Keep all personal information regarding a patient confidentiality

Duties Towards Community

- ❖ Participate in community affairs
- ❖ Follow community law
- ❖ Take leadership role in community elevate the honor of profession
- ❖ Educate the public in promotion of health
- ❖ Using social services provided
- ❖ Respect the property of others

Implied duties owed by the patients

- ❖ Home care instruction should be followed .
- ❖ Appointments will be kept.
- ❖ Bills for services will be paid on time.
- ❖ Patient should be cooperate.

