

ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR DOCTORS – NMC PRINCIPLES (INDIA)

- Place the patient's health and well-being above all other interests.
- Treat every patient with compassion and respect.
- Do good and avoid causing harm in diagnosis, treatment, and research (beneficence and non-maleficence).
- Respect patient autonomy: involve patients in decisions and obtain valid, informed consent before interventions whenever possible.
- Protect confidentiality and privacy; do not disclose patient information except as required by law or for patient safety.
- Treat all patients fairly, without discrimination based on gender, caste, religion, language, socioeconomic status, or any other ground.
- Maintain honesty and integrity in all professional interactions, documentation, and communication.
- Keep professional knowledge up to date through continuing medical education and self-reflection.
- Safeguard the dignity and reputation of the medical profession by avoiding any conduct that erodes public trust.

Based on National Medical Commission ethics regulations for Registered Medical Practitioners in India.



Presented by: Jammu & Kashmir Medical Council

YOUR DUTIES TOWARDS PATIENTS – NMC ETHICS

- Be prompt, courteous, and accessible during consultation hours; inform patients if there is an unavoidable delay.
- Provide first aid and essential care in emergencies; do not refuse emergency treatment or abandon a patient in need.
- Explain the diagnosis, options, likely benefits, and risks in language the patient understands.
- Obtain voluntary, informed consent before procedures; respect the patient's right to accept or refuse treatment.
- Prescribe rational, evidence-based treatment, preferably using generic names, and avoid unnecessary or irrational drugs or tests.
- Inform patients about fees and major costs in advance as far as possible; avoid any form of financial exploitation.
- Maintain accurate, legible medical records and provide copies to patients or authorised relatives within the prescribed time.
- Refer or seek help from another qualified practitioner when the patient needs specialised or higher-level care.

Display in OPDs and wards to remind teams of patient-centred care obligations under NMC norms.



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PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY – DO'S AND DON'TS

- Use only NMC-recognised qualifications and registration numbers on signboards, prescriptions, and certificates.
- Practise only the system of medicine in which you are formally trained and registered; never collaborate with unqualified persons for clinical care.
- Do not solicit patients through agents, commissions, or inducements, online or offline.
- Do not accept gifts, commissions, or kickbacks from diagnostic centres, pharmacies, or industry in return for referrals or prescriptions.
- Avoid self-promotion or misleading advertisements; any public communication must be truthful and not claim guaranteed results.
- Declare and manage conflicts of interest in clinical decisions, research, or medico-legal opinions.
- Refrain from abusing authority over patients, students, or colleagues, including any form of harassment or exploitation.

Ethical self-discipline protects patients, doctors, and the credibility of the profession.



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ETHICS TOWARDS SELF, COLLEAGUES & SOCIETY

- Look after your own physical and mental health to provide safe, competent care; seek help when needed.
- Treat colleagues, students, nurses, and other staff with respect; do not undermine or speak disparagingly without just cause.
- Support honest peer review and error reporting cultures that focus on learning, not blame.
- Participate in health education, preventive programmes, and disaster response as part of social responsibility.
- Do not discriminate or allow bias in teaching, training, or clinical postings.
- Uphold the law in areas such as PCPNDT, abortion, narcotics, organ transplantation, and biomedical research ethics.

Ethical duties extend beyond the consultation room to colleagues, students, and the wider community.



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DIGITAL PRACTICE & RECORDS – ETHICAL CHECKLIST

- Maintain medical records for the legally mandated period; progressively shift to secure electronic health records while protecting confidentiality.
- Issue clear, accurate prescriptions, certificates, and reports with name, registration number, date, and signature.
- Use telemedicine responsibly, following national teleconsultation guidelines and ensuring the same ethical standards as in-person care.
- Document consent, advice, and follow-up instructions clearly, especially in emergencies and referrals.
- Cooperate with statutory bodies and courts, providing truthful information and records when lawfully required.
- Be aware that professional misconduct can lead to warnings, temporary suspension, or permanent loss of licence, depending on gravity.

Good documentation and ethical digital practice are now core parts of professional conduct under NMC.



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