

Editorial

Professional Ethics in the Operating Room

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At the heart of every hospital, the operating room is a central place where surgeons, nurses, and the medical team strive artistically and with unparalleled precision to restore health and life. Nonetheless, “professional ethics”—the sturdy pillar upon which all actions are founded—is the issue that gives profound meaning to this complex and sensitive environment more than any advanced technology or specific technical skill.

The operating room is not merely an arena for confronting disease; rather, it is a stage for testing human dignity, integrity, and accountability. Every incision made/ every suture placed carries the heavy weight of trust—trust bestowed upon this group of specialists by the patient and their family. This is where professional ethics transitions from an abstract concept into something tangible and concrete, manifesting in every decision and every action.

It is noteworthy that confidentiality is the cornerstone of this trust. The patient’s secrets are a trust in our hands, and their disclosure constitutes a betrayal of this sacred covenant.

Honesty is the next pillar. Admitting potential errors (even negligible errors) and being transparent in explaining procedures and their outcomes to the patient

not only do not diminish our professional standing but also enhance the credibility and trust in the medical team.

Moreover, respect for patients’ autonomy and their decisions, even when they are under anesthesia, demonstrates reverence for their humanity. Additionally, preserving the patient’s modesty and privacy in that vulnerable state is a human and divine duty.

Finally, accountability and collaboration are two other contributing factors that should be taken into account with respect to this sensitive environment. The operating room is not a place for selfishness or solo actions. Instead, it is staffed by a unified and harmonious team whose success depends on mutual respect, shared responsibility/ collaborative effort, and unconditional support for one another.

Truly, professional ethics is like a lamp that illuminates the path in the high-pressure, critical environment of the operating room. More precisely, ethics demonstrates the way forward when science and technique reach their limit. Thus, let us keep this lamp burning brightly, as the most precious assets—human “life” and “trust”—are entrusted to us on this path.

Respectfully,

The Editor