



Tishk
International University

Faculty of Applied Science
Medical Analyses Department

3rd GRADE

Dr. Sangar M. AHMED

E. mail: sangar.ahmed@tiu.edu.iq

@Dr.Sangarjaff

Medical and Professional Ethics

Confidentiality

Spring Term

2022 -2023

Definition

Confidentiality is the principle and practice of keeping sensitive information private unless the owner or custodian of the data gives explicit consent for it to be shared with another party



Definition

Confidentiality : is the right of an individual to have personal, identifiable medical information kept out of reach of others.



What is Confidential?

All identifiable patient information, whether written, computerised, visually or audio recorded or simply held in the memory of health professionals, is subject to the duty of confidentiality.

- It covers: —
 - The individual's past, present or future physical or mental health or condition,
 - Any clinical information about an individual's diagnosis or treatment;
 - A picture, photograph, video, audiotape or other images of the patient;
 - Who the patient's doctor is and what clinics patients attend and when;
 - Anything else that may be used to identify patients directly or indirectly
 - The past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to the individual,

Why is there a Duty for Confidentiality?

- Trust between patients and health professionals.
- Patients give information about their health in confidence.
- Individuals will be encouraged to seek appropriate treatment and share information relevant to it.

Proficiency (Medical) Secret

Medical secret is defined as **“Any medical information that comes to the knowledge of the practitioners as a result of their work whether directly obtained from the patient, or otherwise”**

Proficiency (Medical) Secret

It includes any information that the health care providers (or treatment team) knows about the patient (alive or dead), directly or indirectly that a patient may deem its disclosure undesirable or harmful to his/her health, reputation, financial, social or professional status.

Proficiency (Medical) Secret

It includes any information about the patient's identity, condition, diagnosis, investigations' results, treatment, and/or prognosis (whether chances of cure, disability, or death)

Confidentiality Measures

1. Limit the accessibility to the medical records
2. Do not discuss the patient's medical information with unauthorized family members
3. Do not disclose patient's information without his/her consent, or in established exceptions (below)
4. Do NOT collect information not related to the provision of care
5. Limit sharing of information with other staff, unless in cases of consultations and second opinion

Confidentiality Rules

1. Ask for consent to share information.
2. Consider safeguarding when sharing information.
3. Be aware of the information you have and whether it is confidential.
4. Keep records whenever you share confidential information.
5. Be up to date on the laws and rules surrounding confidentiality.



Copyright ©2016 R.J. Romero.

"Looks like our cloud security detected someone accessing patient information with an unapproved device."

Steps to protect patient confidentiality

1. **PROTECT** – look after the patient's information;
2. **INFORM** – ensure that patients are aware of how their information is used;
3. **PROVIDE CHOICE** – allow patients to decide whether their information can be disclosed or used in particular ways.

Confidentiality VS Privacy



