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**Medical and Professional Ethics**

# Privacy

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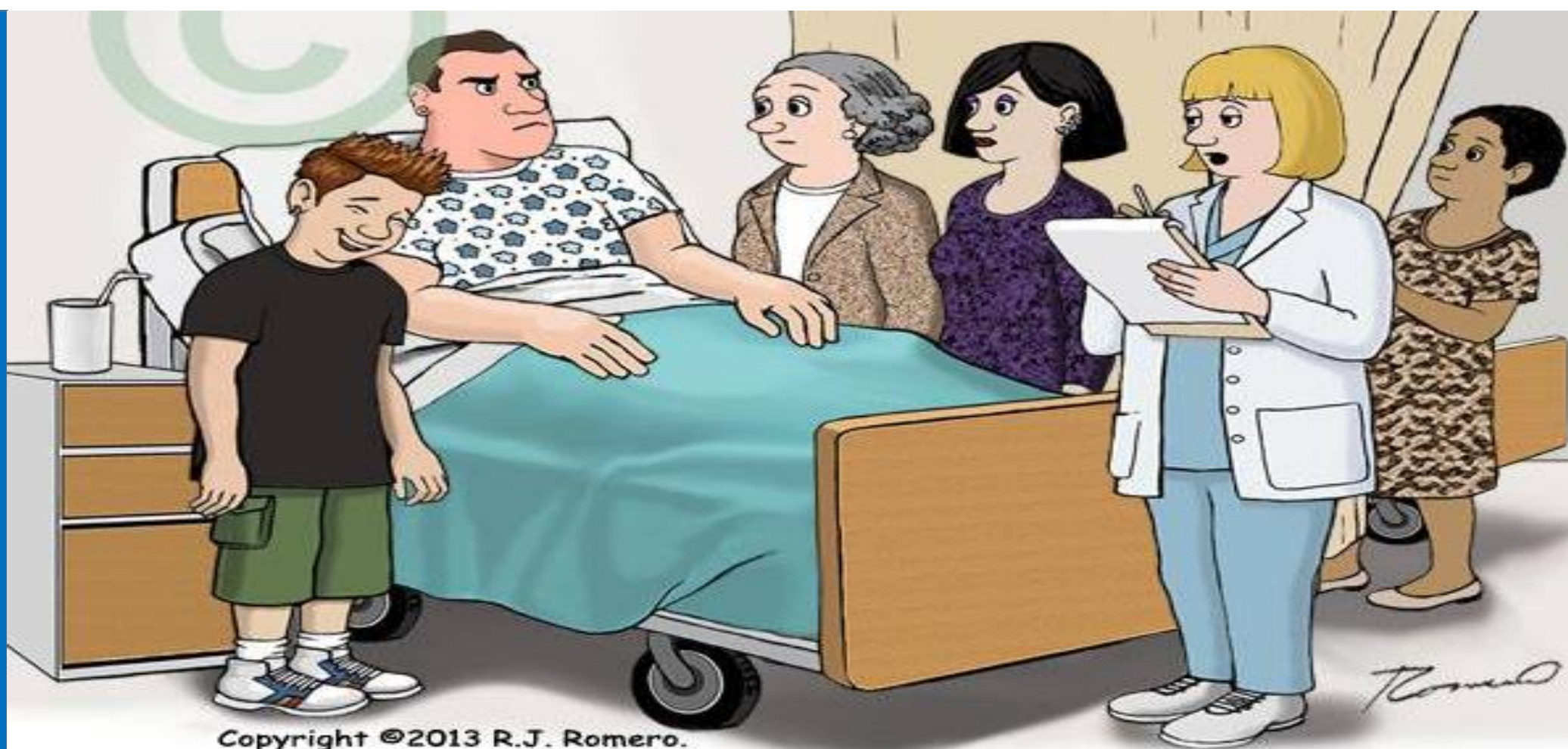
# Definition

Medical privacy, or health privacy, is the practice of maintaining the security and confidentiality of patient records. It involves both the conversational discretion of health care providers and the security of medical records.



Patient data are privacy sensitive data and must be protected from unauthorized access and must remain confidential. To that end, all laboratory staff members must promise to keep patient data confidential in word and in writing.





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**"For your privacy, is it okay to discuss  
the test results In front of patient visitors?"**

## Examples of confidential information are:

Names, dates of birth, addresses, contact details (of staff, clients, patients, pupils). Personal bank details and credit card information. Images of staff, pupils or clients that confirm their identity and can be linked to additional personal information.

# Patients Privacy

Patients have a right to privacy and health professionals have a duty of confidentiality arising from the patient-health care provider relationship to protect patient privacy.

The right to privacy flows from the principle of respect for patient autonomy, based on the individual's right to conduct and control their lives as they choose.



# Types of Privacy

Patient privacy encompasses a number of aspects, including

1. **Personal space (physical privacy)**
2. **Personal data (informational privacy)**
3. **Personal choices including cultural and religious affiliations (decisional privacy)**
4. **Personal relationships with family members and other intimates (associational privacy).**



# Measures to Protect Privacy

1. Make sure examination takes place in isolation from other patients, unauthorized family members, and/or staff
2. Provide gender-sensitive waiting and examination rooms
3. Make sure patients are well covered
4. Make sure your patient's body is exposed ONLY as much as needed by the examination or investigation



