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The Standard of Care in
Traditional Medicine and
Modern Medicine
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The standard of care in traditional medicine and modern medicine

Traditional medicine

- ▶ Defined "the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures".

modern medicine

- ▶ is known as "A general term for conventional healthcare based on the "Western model" of evidence-based practice for diagnosing and treating disease".

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Traditional medicine

- ▶ Natural
- ▶ Cultural
- ▶ Holistic treatment
- ▶ Experimental evidence

Modern medicine

- ▶ chemical
- ▶ Modern
- ▶ individual treatment
- ▶ scientific evidence

Definition the standard of care

- ▶ The standards of care, both in medical or legal terms means a duty of practitioner to use the degree of care and skill expected from a reasonable practitioner who specializes in the same profession acting in the same circumstances.

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Similarities between traditional medicine and modern medicine

1. The medical practitioner is restricted to follow the standards of care stipulated in the field of medicine when practicing a given profession as the law requires it.
2. Any act lower than the required level of care or deviation from the given standard of care that results to injury of a patient is subject to medical malpractice and legal liability of a medical practitioner.

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3. The primary task of any medical practitioner whether in the field of traditional or modern medicine is to give care to a patient and not to achieve any kind of particular result.
4. The level of care that is required in traditional and modern practice of medicine stresses the availability of degree of care from any ordinary practitioner in any given situation.
5. The task of setting the standards of care in both traditional and modern medicine is based on the law and is considered as a purely legal matter.

Differences between traditional medicine and modern medicine

1. The expected level of care from a professional practicing modern medicine is the degree of skill and competence that is expected from all professionals belonging in the same level and situation. In contrast to this, the level of care expected from practitioners of traditional medicine depends primarily on the nature of the client, with methods, approach, and philosophy of therapy as secondary.
2. Unlike modern medicine wherein there exists legality against malpractice for its practitioners, traditional medicine has no unified and stable standard of care for its practitioners.

3. The duty of care of traditional practitioners is always based on an agreed contract that binds both parties about the therapeutic relationship. Modern medicine, on the other hand, either has a contract of agreement or none as in the case of emergency.

4. From the point-of-view of the courts of law, the standards of care of modern medicine are not applicable to a traditional practitioner. The courts of law prefer to apply the specific standards for each practice model separately.

5. The standards of care of a practitioner of modern medicine are determined by the objective criterion that measures the liability of a doctor on the behavior of another doctor belonging in the same level and competence. In traditional medicine, the standards of care are determined by the skill and professional competence of a practitioner following the requirements of a therapeutic model.

Conclusion

- ▶ It is obvious that to identify and define the standards of care in traditional medicine is characterized and different from modern medicine.
- ▶ The medical legislature should bear the important step of organizing and setting the standard of care in traditional medicine while considering its unique nature, historical background, and therapeutic philosophy.



Thank
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