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FAMILY MEDICINE HANDBOOK



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CHAPTER 10 ETHICS IN PRIMARY CARE PRACTICE

Abdul Hadi Said and Mohd Aznan Md Aris

Learning Objectives

- 1. Able to understand and compare the principles of the four pillars of medical ethics and to practice them for primary care.
- 2. Able to identify and understand the extended ethical issues that are relevant to primary care practice.
- 3. Able to analyse and apply the ethical principle in dealing with ethical cases commonly seen in primary care.

Introduction

Family physicians deal with various types of patients from different ages, races and social backgrounds. A family physician needs to be well equipped with a clear understanding of ethical principles to enablethem to manage any kind of ethical issues raised. This chapter aims to discuss the four pillars of medical ethics namely 'patient autonomy', 'beneficence', 'non-maleficence' and 'justice'. These four pillars will be discussed from the primary care perspective. Beyond that, this chapter will also discuss the extended medical ethics which are particularly relevant to primary care such as patient's confidentiality, child's rights,