**PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, MEDICAL ETHICS, BIOETHICS, CLINICAL ETHICS**

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**Professional Ethics**

Professional ethics are standards of conduct that apply to people who occupy a professional occupation or role.

A person who enters a profession acquires ethical obligations because society trusts them to provide valuable goods and services that cannot be provided unless their conduct conforms to certain standards.

Professionals who fail to live up to their ethical obligations betray this trust.

Professional ethics studied by ethicists include medical ethics.

**Medical ethics**

The expressions “professional ethics” and “medical ethics” were coined by Thomas Percival.

Medical ethics is a special kind of ethics only as it relates to a particular realm of facts and concerns and not because it embodies or appeals to some special moral principles or methodology.

* It is applied ethics. It consists of the same moral principles and rules that we would appeal to, and argue for, in ordinary circumstances.
* It is just that in medical ethics these familiar moral rules are being applied to situations peculiar to the medical world.

**Bioethics**

Bioethics could be defined as the study of ethical issues and decision-making associated with the use of living organisms

Bioethics includes both medical ethics and environmental ethics. Bioethics is learning how to balance different benefits, risks and duties.

**Clinical ethics**

Clinical ethics is a practical discipline that provides a structured approach for identifying, analyzing, and resolving ethical issues in clinical medicine.

Clinical medical ethics is a practical and applied discipline that aims to improve patient care and patient outcomes by focusing on reaching a right and good decision in individual cases.

It focuses on the doctor-patient relationship and takes account of the ethical and legal issues that patients, doctors, and hospitals must address to reach good decisions for individual patients.

Clinical ethics emphasizes that in practicing good clinical medicine, physicians must combine scientific and technical abilities with ethical concerns for the personal values of the patients who seek their help.

The content of clinical ethics includes:

* specific issues such as truth-telling, informed consent, end of life care, palliative care, allocation of clinical resources, and the ethics of medical research.
* the study of the doctor-patient relationship, including such issues as honesty, competence, integrity, and respect for persons.