# Section One: Basic Issues

1. **Introduction** .................................................................................................................. 1  
   *Rishi Bhatia*

2. **Ethical Issues in Medical Practice** ............................................................................. 6  
   *Pukhraj Bafna*
   - History of Medical Ethics 7
   - The Hippocratic Oath 7
   - The Role of the World Medical Association 8
   - Declaration of Geneva 8
   - International Code of Medical Ethics 8
   - Declaration of Helsinki 9
   - Ethical Challenges in Health Care 12
   - Present Day Ethics—Regulatory Vacuum 13

3. **Duties and Rights of the Doctor** ................................................................................. 15  
   *Samyr Dalwai*
   - Duties of the Doctor, in General 15
   - Duties to their Patients 16
   - Duties During Consultation 17
   - Responsibilities of Doctors Toward Each Other 17
   - Duties of Doctors to the Public and the Paramedical Professions 18
   - Duty to Desist from Unethical Acts 18
   - Misconduct and Violations of the Code of Ethics 19
   - Punishment and Disciplinary Action 22

4. **Legal Hurdles in Medical Practice** ............................................................................. 23  
   *Ajay Gambhir, Anju Gambhir*
   - Individual 23
   - At the State Level 24
   - National Level 24

5. **Communication Skills** .............................................................................................. 27  
   *Sandhya Khadse*
   - Importance of Communication Skills 27
   - Barriers to Good Communication 28
   - Strategies for Improving Communication 30
   - Who is at Fault? 31
   - Informed Consent 33
6. Doctor-Patient Relationship .................................................................................. 35
   Mukul Tiwari, CP Bansal
   - What is a Fiduciary Relationship? 36
   - Models of Doctor-Patient Relationship 36
   - Advantages of a Sound DPR 40
   - Basic Principles of a Sound DPR 40
   - Factors Behind Deteriorating Doctor-Patient Relationship 40
   - The E-patient Revolution 41

Section Two: Documentation and Liabilities

7. Record Keeping .................................................................................................... 49
   Nilofer Mujawar
   - Types of Records 50
   - Essentials of the Record 50
   - Surgery 51
   - Discharge/Transfer Communication 51
   - Outpatient Record 52
   - Medicolegal Aspects 52
   - Preservation of Records 52

8. Consent .............................................................................................................. 53
   Alka Kuthe
   - General Principle 53
   - Areas of Special Attention 57
   - Lapse does not constitute Deficiency 59
   - If No Immediate Necessity for Operation, Consent Should be Obtained 59
   - Advance Directives 61
   - Can Consent be Done Away? 61
   - Consent of Maternity Patients 62
   - Important Case Laws 63

9. Medical Negligence ........................................................................................... 66
   JR Navarange
   - Vicarious Liability 68
   - Burden of Proof 69
   - Prevention of Negligence 69
   - Defenses 69

10. Errors in Medical Practice .............................................................................. 70
    Shashi Mohan Sardana
    - Kinds of Errors 71
    - Adverse Drug Reactions 72
    - Disclosure of Medical Errors 77
    - Reducing Medication Errors 81
    - Preventing Errors 83
    - Efficient Follow-up on Tests and Referrals 86
    - Safe Practices to Reduce Errors—NQF Recommendations 88
## Contents

### 11. Criminal Liability in Medical Profession ................................................................. 93

*Rishi Bhatia, Rajesh Shah*

- Evidence and Record 94
- Public Health, Safety and Drugs 95
- Related to Indoor Patients 95
- Endangering Life 95
- Culpable Homicide 96
- Death Due to Negligence 96
- Defenses for Doctor Accused of Criminal Liability 96

### 12. Difficult Situations in Practice .............................................................................. 101

*G Kumthekar*

- Sudden Death 101
- Breaking the News 104
- Brought Dead 105
- Settlement of Bills and Recovery of Bills 106

---

### Section Three: Legal Issues

#### 13. How to Defend a Case ........................................................................................ 109

*Prakash Pawar, Ashwini Pawar, Amol Pawar*

- Legal Notice 111
- Reply to Notice 112
- Preparing Written Statement (WS) 113

#### 14. Specific Legal Issues .......................................................................................... 116

*Mahesh Baldwa*

**14.1 Res Ipsa Loquitur** 116

- Medicolegal Examples 119
- Indian Cases on Res Ipsa 121
- Rebuttal 123

**14.2 Res Judicata and Estoppel** 128

- Section 11 of CPC is Mandatory 129
- Take Home Message and Summary 132

#### 15. Some Landmark Judgments .............................................................................. 133

*Rajendra Borkar, Satish Tiwari*

- Indian Medical Association vs VP Shantha (AIR 1996 SC 550) 133
- Poonam Varma vs Ashwin Patel (AIR 1996 SC 2111) 134
- Dr Mukhtiar Chand and Others vs The State of Punjab and Others 134
- M/s Spring Meadows Hospital vs Harjot Ahluwalia (AIR 1998 SC 1801) 136
- Dr Suresh Gupta vs Govt. of NCT of Delhi (2004) 6 SCC 422 136
- Dr Jacob Mathews vs State of Punjab III (2005) CPJ SC 9 137
- Samira Kohli vs Dr Prabha Manchanda I (2008) CPJ 56 (SC) 137
- SC in C A No. 3541 of 2002, Martin F D’Souza vs Mohd Ishfaq 139
- The Steroid Case 142
- Kusum Sharma vs Batra Hospital and Medical Research Center 142
- Some Other Case Laws 147
# 16. Calculation of Compensation

*Mahesh Baldwa*

- Meaning and Object of Compensation 149
- How Much Compensation 150
- Damage—Reasonable Foreseeability 150
- Mode of Assessment 150
- Application of Multiplier 150
- Types of Damages 151
- Important Supreme Court Judgment 151
- Loss of Future Earnings 152
- Case Laws 152
- Cost of Future Care 152
- Non-pecuniary General Damages 152
- Pain and Suffering 153
- Loss of Amenities of Life 153
- Damages for the Injury Itself 153
- Loss of Estate 153
- Loss of Consortium 154
- Interest on Amount 154
- The Mode of Assessment Under Consumer Protection Act 154
- Relief, Which is not Specifically Prayed 155
- Compensation for a Doctor’s Negligent Advice 155
- Token Compensation 155
- To Stop Rendering Medical Services 155
- Compensation in the Form of Providing Employment 156
- Doctor’s Fees Being Reasonable or Excessive 156
- Excess/Wrong Charges 156

---

# Section Four: Issues in Various Subspecialties

## 17. Medicolegal Issues in Pediatrics/Medicine

*Satish Tiwari*

- What is Pediatric Age? 161
- Who is a Pediatrician? 162
- Dealing with a Patient 162
- Some Legal Issues 165
- Do’s in Practice 169
- Don’ts for Practitioners 170

### 17.1 Medicolegal and Ethical Issues in Newborn Care

*Mukesh Birla*

- History 171
- Why these Issues Need to be Addressed? 171
- Why these Issues Need to be Discussed? 171
- The Important Issues 171

## 18. Medicolegal Issues in Emergency Room and Critical Care

*Mahesh Baldwa*

- Likely Situations of Medicolegal Importance 174
- Emergency Blood Transfusion 177
18.1 DNR, Euthanasia and Life Support Systems ................................................. 179
Anjan Bhattacharya, Sudhir Mishra
  • Indications 179
  • Legal Aspects of Ventilation in Children 181
  • Euthanasia 184

19. Medicolegal Aspects in Obstetrics and Gynecology Practice ...................... 186
Prabuddh S Mittal
  • Duties of an Obstetrician 187
  • Areas of Sues 187
  • Errors in Antenatal Screening and Diagnosis can Lead to Claims 189
  • Role of Counseling 193
  • Measures for Prevention of Lawsuits 194

19.1 Medicolegal Aspects in Pregnancy and Labor .............................................. 198
Milind R Shah
  • Medicolegal Aspects During Pregnancy 198

19.2 Medicolegal Aspects of Obstetric Bleeding ................................................. 201
Shantanu Abhyankar
  • Various Situations in Obstetric Bleeding 201

19.3 Medicolegal Aspects of LSCS .................................................................... 204
Dilip Walke
  • Pitfalls and Remedies 204

19.4 Medicolegal Issues in Adolescent Gynecology ........................................... 207
Alka Kuthe
  • Issues in Adolescent Gynecology 207
  • Guidelines by Supreme Court 218

20. Medicolegal Issues in Surgery and Orthopedics ......................................... 222
Subhash Behere
  • Common Problem Areas and Solutions 222
  • Minimum Requirements in OT 223
  • Precautions—Preoperative, During Operation and Postoperative 225

21. Medicolegal Aspects of Anesthesia ............................................................... 227
Namita Baldwa, Amit Padvi, Sushila Baldwa
  • Issues in Medicolegal Aspects of Anesthesia 227
  • Some Landmark Cases in Anesthesia 230
  • Not Calling an Anesthetist 233

22. Medical Negligence in Ophthalmology ...................................................... 235
Purendra Bhasin
  • Malpractice and Criminal Negligence 236
  • Protective Factors 237
  • Practices and/or Precautions 237
23. Medicolegal Issues in Dentistry ................................................................. 248

Vijay Baldwa

- Legal Issues and the Dental Patient 248
- Res Ipsa Loquitur 249
- Risk Management Program 249
- Management of the Medically Compromised Patient 252

24. Medicolegal Issues in Pathology ............................................................... 257

Mahesh Baldwa, Sushila Baldwa, Varsha Baldwa

- Registration and Licensing of a Pathologist 257
- Important Case Scenarios 257

25. Medicolegal Issues in Organ Transplantation .......................................... 263

Subhash Behere

- Types of Transplantation 263
- Transplantation of Human Organs Act 263
- A Landmark Case 264

26. Forensic Issues in Clinical Practice ......................................................... 265

Indrajit L. Khandekar

- Medicolegal Case 266
- Issues in Medicolegal Cases 266

27. HIV—Medicolegal Issues ....................................................................... 284

Ira Shah

- Consent for HIV Testing 284
- Disclosure of HIV Test 285
- Confidentiality of HIV Patients Enrolled in Research or Clinical Trials 285
- Diagnosis of HIV 286
- Treatment of HIV Infected Persons 286
- HIV in Pregnancy 286
- Patient Medical Records 287
- Prohibition of Discrimination 287
- Blood Transfusion and HIV 287
- Responsibilities of an HIV Infected Individual 287

28. Medicolegal Issues in Homeopathy ......................................................... 288

Rajesh Upadhyay, Smriti Upadhyay

- Declaration and Oath 288
- General Principles 289
Section Five: Miscellaneous Issues

29. Legal Issues in Medical Education ................................................................. 299
   Satish Tiwari
   • Background Situation 299
   • Privatization of Medical Education 299
   • Role of Regulatory Bodies 300
   • The Present Scenario 300
   • Time for “Gurukul Medical Education” 301

30. Legal Issues in Medical Tourism ................................................................. 303
    Mukul Tiwari, Archana Tiwari
    • India’s Medical Tourism 303
    • Risks in Medical Tourism 304
    • Controversies in Medical Tourism 305
    • Transboundary Issues 305

31. Legal Issues in Telemedicine and Electronic Consultations ...................... 307
    BB Sahni
    • Issues Involved in Telemedicine 307
    • Definitions and Concepts 308
    • Existing Indian Law 309
    • Telemedicine Process Guidelines 310
    • Appendix 1 312

32. Medical Websites ............................................................................................ 313
    Avinash Bansal, Geeta Bansal
    • Assessing Website Credibility 314
    • Medicolegal Issues in Use of the Web 315

33. Police Cases and Procedures for Doctors .................................................. 318
    Mahesh Baldwa, Sushila Baldwa
    • Relevant Sections of IPC and CrPC 318
    • Relevant Sections of IPC 320
    • Relevant Sections of CrPC 321

34. Role of Government ......................................................................................... 323
    Sudhir Mishra
    • Government Can Act in Many Ways 323
    • Strengthening Medical Infrastructure of the Country 324
    • Better Facilities at Government Run Educational Institutions 324
    • Fake or Poor Quality Drugs 326
    • Defining Medical Negligence 327
    • Guidelines for Law Enforcing Agencies 328
    • Reduce the Gains of Lawyers in Frivolous Lawsuits 328
35. Role of NGOs in Medicolegal Disputes ................................................................. 331
   Arun Bal
   - Self-regulation and the Medical Profession 332
   - Law and Medical Ethics 332
   - Medical Council of India 333
   - Rights of the Patients 335
   - Responsibilities of Patients 337
   - Medical Councils 337
   - Civil Courts 338
   - Criminal Courts 338
   - Contextualizing the Consumers Protection Act 339
   - ACASH 342

36. Role of Media ....................................................................................................... 344
   Prajapati NC, Kumar Rajesh
   - Medicolegal Issues 344
   - Medicolegal Case (MLC) 344
   - Role of Medical Team 345
   - Role of Police 345
   - Role of Media 345

37. Professional Indemnity ......................................................................................... 348
   Satish Tiwari
   - Definitions 348
   - Types of Policies 348
   - Criteria/Requirements 349
   - The Premium 349
   - Scope 349
   - Exceptions/Exclusions 349
   - Advantages 349
   - Limitations 350
   - Procedure 350

38. Advertising by Doctors ....................................................................................... 351
   Ashok Banga
   - What is Unethical in Advertising? 351
   - What is Ethical in Advertising? 352
   - What is Happening? 352
   - Is it Punishable? 352
   - Has Someone been Punished by MCI? 352
   - Advertisement through Website and Webcasting 352

39. Role of Medical Councils .................................................................................... 353
   Charu Mittal
   - Protection of Action Taken in Good Faith 354
   - Some Reasons for Filing a Suit 354
   - Role of MCI/SMC 354
   - Procedure Adopted by Council when Complaint is Filed 354
   - Time Frame for Inquiry 355
   - Punishment and Disciplinary Action 355
40. Alphabet for Action .......................................................... 357
(Ways to Minimize Medical Litigation)
Alka Kuthe

- The Alphabets 357

Appendices

Appendix 1: Consent Forms ....................................................... 363
- For Indoor Admissions 363
- For Surgical/Invasive Diagnostic Procedures 364
- Discharge Against Medical Advise 365
- Consent for Vaccination 366
- Certificate 367
- Police Information Report 368
- Referral Letter 369
- MTP Consent Form 370
- Consent Under PCPNDT Act 371
- Consent for Sterilization/Tubal Ligation Procedures 372

Appendix 2: Guidelines for Eye Camps ....................................... 373

Appendix 3: Guidelines for Sterilization ...................................... 374
(Issued by the Government of India)

Appendix 4: NACO Guidelines .................................................. 375
(Guidelines for Blood Storage Centers)
- Background 375
- Location 375
- Requirements 375
- Staff 376
- Storage 376
- Issue of Blood/Blood Component 376
- Blood Grouping 376
- Cell Grouping 377
- Serum Grouping 377
- Cross-matching 377
- Points to Remember 378

Appendix 5: MCI Code of Ethics Regulations, 2002 ...................... 379
(Medical Council of India Notification 379
- Chapter 1 379
- Chapter 2 381
- Chapter 3 382
- Chapter 4 383
- Chapter 5 384
- Chapter 6 384
- Chapter 7 385
- Chapter 8 388
- Appendix–1 388
- Appendix–2 389
- Appendix–3 390
- Appendix–4 390
- Medical Council of India—Notification 391
- Medical Council of India—Amendment Notification 392
Appendix 6: The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 .......................... 394
  • Contents 394
  • The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 394
  • Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 1975 396

Appendix 7: The Prenatal Diagnostic Technique Act........................................ 401
(Regulation and Prevention of Misuse Act, 1994)
  • Chapter 1 401
  • Chapter 2 402
  • Chapter 3 402
  • Chapter 4 403
  • Chapter 5 405
  • Chapter 6 406
  • Chapter 7 408
  • Chapter 8 409

Appendix 8: The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 ........................ 412
  • Contents 412

Index 423