

Vocabulary

Theme 2 - Medical Ethics

advance directive (n)

- a written statement of a person's wishes regarding medical treatment that legally ensures their wishes will be carried out if they are unable to communicate them

advocate (v)

related: advocate (n)

- to speak on behalf of another person or group

authorization (n)

related: authorize (v)

- official permission or approval

autonomy (n)

- the right of competent adults to make informed decisions about their own medical care; one of four key principles of medical ethics

BA (business associate) (n)

- any non-covered entity that has access to PHI (attorneys, CPA firms, independent medical transcriptionists, etc.)

beneficence (n)

- the principle of doing good or acting in the best interest of the patient; one of four key principles of medical ethics

bias (n)

- an unfair prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group

CE (covered entity) (n)

- any healthcare provider, health plan, or healthcare clearinghouse that uses PHI

CLAS (culturally and linguistically appropriate services) (n)

- services that are respectful of and responsive to the cultural beliefs, practices, and needs of diverse patients

compliance (n)

related: comply (v)

- obeying a set of rules, such as a policy or law

confidentiality (n)

related: confidential (adj)

- a patient's right to have their information kept secret

CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) (n)

- an emergency procedure used to restart a person's heartbeat and breathing after one or both have stopped

cultural competency (n)

- gaining the awareness, knowledge, and skills to work and communicate effectively in cross-cultural situations

cultural humility (n)

- understanding one's biases and privileges, managing power imbalances, and remaining open to others' identities and beliefs

data breach (n)

related: breach (v)

- a security violation in which unauthorized users gain access to confidential, protected information

dilemma (n)

- a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives, especially equally undesirable ones

DNR (do-not-resuscitate) order (n)

- a type of advance directive stating that a patient does not want CPR if they go into cardiac arrest or stop breathing

EHRs (electronic health records) or EMRs (electronic medical records) (n)

- electronic versions of a patient's medical records, owned and stored by a healthcare provider

encryption (n)

related: encrypt (v)

- the process of encoding information, especially to keep it secure

ethics (n)

related: ethical (adj)

- the character of an individual, the right or wrong conduct of an individual in a particular situation

healthcare proxy or durable power of attorney for healthcare (n)

- a type of advance directive in which a patient appoints an agent to make healthcare decisions on their behalf

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) (n)

- a federal law that requires the creation of national standards to protect sensitive patient health information from being disclosed

hospice (n)

- a healthcare facility that provides palliative care for terminally ill patients

informed consent (n)

- a principle in medical ethics and law that a patient must have sufficient information and understanding before making decisions about their medical care

justice (n)

- the principle of doing what is fair and equitable; one of four key principles of medical ethics

living will (n)

- a type of advance directive that addresses end-of-life treatment

morals (n)

related: moral (adj)

- the customs established by a group of individuals, concerned with the principles of right and wrong

non-maleficence (n)

- the principle of doing no harm; one of four key principles of medical ethics

palliative care (n)

- specialized medical care for people with a serious illness, focused on relieving symptoms and pain

PHI (protected health information) (n)

- individually identifiable health information (medical histories, lab results, insurance information, etc.)

PHR (personal health record) (n)

- a collection of health-related information compiled and maintained by the individual it pertains to

privacy (n)

- a patient's right to have control over their personal information and be free from being observed by others not involved in their care

SDM (shared decision-making) (n)

- an emerging best practice in healthcare that involves clinicians and patients working together to make decisions about treatment

telehealth or telemedicine (n)

- the use of electronic communication to provide healthcare at a distance

triage (n)

- the process of quickly examining sick or injured people to prioritize patient care based on urgency

violation (n)

related: violate (v)

- an action that breaks a law, agreement, or principle