The Major Medical Ethical Challenges facing the Public and Health Care Providers in K.S.A

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بِسُمِاللهِ الرّحْمَرِ الرّحِيمِ

قال الله تعالى: { وإذا مرضت فهو يشفين }

ويقول المصطفى على :
(لا تحقرن من المعروف شيئاً ولو أن تلقى أخاك بوجه طلق) رواه أحمد .

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Introduction

Medical Services are one of the priorities and highly needed in developed country like K.S.A. However, some health problems occurred in our culture which is related to health ethical issues.



The Major Medical Ethics Challenging issues Facing Public and Health Care Provider in K.S.A

Aim of this study is to:

To explore the Major Medical Ethical Issues that challenges and facing the public and health care providers in K.S.A.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study are to:

- To know the major medical ethical challenges and facing Saudi public & health care providers in K.S.A
- To know the Top 10 priorities in our health care system from ethical views

Methodology

This is a cross-section study.

Study Area

This study is conducted in many majors cities of K.S.A that considered abundant numbers of medical and academic institutions, namely:

Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam , Tiaf, Tabuk and Abha

Study Population

Any health professional staff who are:

- -1- members of Ethics committee in the major hospitals in his area.
- -2- having experience in medical ethics field
- -3- Have medical administration experience in medical field (CEO, medical directors)
- -4- academic staff in medical college who have experience in medical ethics

Sampling Technique:

Random Sample of four (4) hospitals in Riyadh, two (2) in Jeddah & two (2) in Dammam. one in Taif and another one in Tabuk . (10 major hospitals)



The hospitals are:

A.Riyadh

- 1.King Fahad Medical City (KFMC)
- 2. National Guard Hospital (KFNGH)
- 3. Military Hospital (RKH)
- 4. King Khalid University Hospital (KKUH)

B.Jeddah

- 5. King Faisal Specialized Hospital
- 6.King Abdul-Aziz University Hospital (KAUH)



C. Dammam

- 7.Dammam Central Hospital
- 8.King Faisal Specialized Hospital

D.Others

- 9. Taif Military Hospital
- 10 Tabuk Military Hospital



TOTAL NO OF PARTICEPANTS (90) from 110 whom we sent to them-82%

- 1- FROM RHIADH
 34 PARTICEPANTS
- 2- FROM JEDDAH 24 PARTICEPANTS
- 3-FROM DAMMAM 8 PARTICIPANTS
- 4-FROM OTHER(
 TAIF, TABUK, ABHA, OTHERS)
 24 PARTICEPANTS

The major Information to be obtain from them

We depends on their experience to prioritize the major ethical issues in Saudi Arabia

- The Size of the problems, the more seriousness and the Feasibility of solving the problem and status of peoples awareness.
- 2. The most concern health ethical challenges related to health directors

Limitation of the Study

This study was funded by sheek > Alhamodi

approved (كرسي الشيخ العامودي للأخلاقيات الصحية) by IRB in KFMC.

One of limitation was the communication with the participants in this study was not easy.



Data Collection Tool and Analysis

In this study **Delphi Method** which is validated & used in similar international study in Canada has been applied in this study.

It has three steps:

First step

the participants were asked to list the top 10 medical ethics challenging health care provider in our culture (Saudi Arabia). They were requested to email their responses back to the investigators.

Step 2:

These forms were collected and entered to SPSS file and frequencies of the ranks were obtained.

These frequencies were ranked from the highest values to the lowest.



The results of this ranks were resent again to the respondents and they were asked to re-rank them, If they don't agree about the item s' importance.

They were requested to email the new list back again to the researchers.

These forms were collected and entered to SPSS file and frequencies of them were obtained.

It were re-ranked again from the highest frequencies to the lowest.

Step 3:

(invite them for workshop meeting)

A panel consists of highly professional expertise in the field whom shared in this study were invited to this meeting to decide the top 10 major ethical issues facing the Saudi community to have final list top 10 list.



Result of the study

TOP 10 RANKING

Ethical Issues in Saudi Arabia as described by Health Care Professionals

Patients Rights identification	55	1
Confidentiality	41	2
Medical Negligence (Medical Error)	31	3
Consent Form (as a patient or as a research person)	30	4
Islamic Medicine & Ethics of Muslim Doctors	29	5
Research Ethics	27	6
Equity of Resource Distribution	27	7
Dealing with Health Care Team	25	8
Patients Require Resuscitation (DNR)	22	9
Examining Opposite Sex	17	10
Physicians Rights and Duties	12	11
The Effect Health System on Decision Making	12	12
Conflict of Interest	10	13
Legitimate Necessity	9	14

		Do you	agree?	
ltems	Rank	Yes	No	Your New Rank
Patients Identification and Rights	1			
Confidentiality	2			
Medical Negligence (Medical Error)	3			
Consent FORM (as a patient or as a research subject	4			
Islamic Medicine & Ethics of Muslim Doctors	5			
Research Ethics	6			
Equity of Resource Distribution	7			
Dealing with Health Care Team	8			
Patients Require Resuscitation (DNR)	9			
Examining Opposite Sex	10			
Physicians Rights and Duties	11			
The Effect Health System on Decision Making	12			
Conflict of Interest	13			
Legitimate Necessity	14			
Abortion (Legal)	15			
Disclosure to Patient	16			
Regulation of Health Insurance	17			
Knowing and Compliance with Medical Ethics	18			
Private Health Sectors Reliability	19			
Colleagueship	20			
Access to Patient's Files	21			
Geriatric Health Facilities	22			
Incomplete Medical Records	23			
Second Opinion	24			
Pribes in Health Care Facilities	25			
Long Waiting List	26			
Buying Organs for Transplantation (Organ Transplant or Donation)	27			
References and Empathy for Patients	28			
Using Prohibited Medicine	29			
Language Barriers	30			
Private in Governmental Hospitals	31			
Nursing Practice	32			

Thai scale

No.	Items	Size of the Problem	Seriousness of the Problem	Feasibility solving the problem	stats people's awareness	total
1	Patients Rights	4	4	4	3	192
2	Confidentiality of the patients	4	4	3	3	144
3	Patient Safety	4	4	2	4	128
4	Informed Consent	4	4	3	2	96

Ethical Issues (Top 10) as described by Health Care Professionals

Items Frequency Rank

Patients Rights identification معرفة حقوق المرضى	55	1
Confidentiality السرية	41	2
Medical Negligence (Medical Error الأخطاء الطبية)	31	3
Consent Form (as a patient or as in research) الموافقة المستنيرة	30	4
Islamic Medicine & Ethics of Muslim Doctors أخلاقيات الطب الإسلامي	29	5
Research Ethics الخلاقيات الابحاث	27	6
عدالة التوزيع Equity of Resource Distribution	25	7
التعامل مع الفريق الصحي Dealing with Health Care Team	23	8
Patients Require Resuscitation (DNR) الإنعاش القلبي	22	9
Examining Opposite Sex الفحص الطبي المختلط	((_17))	10



The major medical ethical challenges facing the public and healthcare providers in Saudi Arabia

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Debate

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Top 10 health care ethics challenges facing the public: views of Toronto bioethicists

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Table 1: Top 10 ethical challenges facing Canadians in health care

Rank	Scenario	Score
	Disagreement between patients/families and health care professionals about treatment decisions	3
2	Waiting lists	102
3	Access to needed health care resources for the aged, chronically ill and mentally ill	89
4	Shortage of family physicians or primary care teams in both rural and urban settings	82
5	Medical error	76
6	Withholding/withdrawing life sustaining treatment in the context of terminal or serious illness	56
7	Achieving informed consent	43
8	Ethical issues related to subject participation in research	40
9	Substitute decision-making	38
10	The ethics of surgical innovation and incorporating new technologies for patient care	21

Ethical Issues (Top 10) as described by Health Care Professionals

Items Rank

Patients Rights	1
Confidentiality	2
Medical Negligence (Medical Error)	3
Consent Form (as a patient or as in research)	4
Islamic Medicine & Ethics of Muslim Doctors	5
Research Ethics	6
Equity of Resource Distribution	7.
Dealing with Health Care Team	8
Patients Require Resuscitation (DNR)	9
Examining Opposite Sex	10

Conclusion

There are many major medical > ethical challenges facing the public and healthcare providers in saudi arabia and the highest or the first ranked one was patient Right .the least top 10 was the health care team ethics.

