

BOOK V

ON OTHER PROFESSIONALS IN THE HEALTH TEAM

CHAPTER 36

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A) On Pharmacists and Biochemists

Art.-568 Whenever necessary, the Pharmacist or Biochemist shall be obliged to recommend her or his clients to make a call on the doctor or odontologist. No Pharmacist or Biochemist shall modify a prescription unless with the author's previous express consent. The Pharmacist or Biochemist shall not influence her or his clients regarding the use of certain medicines.

Art.-569 The Pharmacist or Biochemist shall avoid any medical encounters to be carried out or agreed upon in her or his office or laboratory.

Art.-570 The Pharmacist or Biochemist shall be the Quality Guarantor of the products he or she uses, produces or markets, and shall never act as a mere intermediary. Her or his opinions are highly valuable for the population's Health.

Art.-571 As regards medicines, Pharmacists shall be responsible to patients not only for the Quality of the product in the source but also for the Safety during medicine transportation, storing and distribution (for example, drugs requiring cold chain).

Art.-572 All of the above, apart from their ethical connotation are legal obligations, both civil and criminal.

B) On Nursing Professionals

Art.-573 Professional, technical and auxiliary nurses shall render their service in the following conditions:

Paragraph a) to everyone requesting their service.

Paragraph b) respecting the dignity of the patient.

Paragraph c) Showing no objections to the individual's religious, moral or ethical convictions, nor to her or his physical or mental status.

Paragraph d) The nursing professional may decline to assist a patient based on incompatibilities resulting from the conditions set forth under Paragraph c), but shall report such situation to her or his superior.

Art.-574 The nursing professional shall protect the patient's tranquility and safety, shall try to alleviate her or his suffering and shall cooperate with the family's sound requirements. It is unethical conduct to foster or cooperate with active euthanasia.

Art.-575 Professional secret is an ethical and legal responsibility of the nursing staff. When taking part in an investigation, the nursing staff shall be bound by the provisions under Book III contained herein.

Art.-576 If her or his deposition as a witness is required, he or she shall inform her or his superior and shall request the corresponding legal advise.

Art.-577 Any objection that the nursing professional may have to a colleague's professional care, he or she shall inform her or his superior, her or his professional association (if necessary), and even an ordinary court.

Art.-578 The nursing professional shall be updated on her or his knowledge of personal care as well as of care for the environment and the use of toxic substances.

Art.-579 She or he shall pay careful attention to the relationship with other Health Team members and shall be entitled to the following:

Paragraph a) to request information from responsible sources.

Paragraph b) to inquire her or his professional association's Ethics Committee or that of the Institution where he or she works.

C) On the Operating Room Nurse

Art.-580 The OR nurse shall assist the patient from the moment the patient enters the operating room. The OR nurse shall know the patient's medical record and the immediate surgical act, anticipating any possible changes to the initial plan.

Art.-581 The OR nurse shall try to avoid, whatever the cause may be, to abandon the patient during the surgical procedure, and to delegate her or his own functions to other persons.

D) On Physiotherapists

Art.-582 The responsibility for physiotherapeutic care cannot be delegated. Physiotherapists shall not assign auxiliary personnel or hire qualified persons, not even undergraduates, to carry out activities that are her or his responsibility.

Art.-583 The physiotherapist shall make up the corresponding patient record and protect its privacy.

Art.-584 From the point of view of the so-called heterodox practices, the professional shall bear in mind that many of these procedures have been recognized in the medical practice, although not all of them have been scientifically and legally authorized.

E) On Odontologists

Art.-585 As regards the special ethics of Odontology, the following are important:

Paragraph a) It is unethical conduct to accept as collaborators dental technicians who practice illegally.

Paragraph b) the participation of dental technicians as helpers in odontological offices is unethical conduct.

Art.-586 The odontologist's practice requires economical investment in materials. For that reason, it is not unethical conduct to request that a down payment or the total payment be made in advance of the corresponding fees.

F) On Psychologists

Art.-587 Given modern social evolution, their role is particularly significant in the following areas:

Paragraph a) care for addict patients.

Paragraph b) care for insane patients.

Paragraph c) Care for patients with AIDS.

Paragraph d) care for patients with incurable diseases.

Paragraph e) Care for patients in pre- and post- transplantation conditions.

Art.-588 In view of the above, the attention these professionals pay to their qualifying scientific education and training is of utmost importance.

G) On Hospital Engineering and Architecture

Art.-589 The professional practice shall be carried out following recognized scientific rules and principles. When the professional performs her or his activity, she or he shall take into consideration that she/he will depend on her/his professional judgment to comply with her/his duty: to protect people's health, safety and welfare, as well as the integrity and safety of the physical habitat, facilities and equipment of health centers.

Art.-590 The health professional shall keep the confidentiality of medical matters obtained in the course of her or his practice, unless when requested by a court or competent

authority, or when reasons of security or protection of people's health, or the integrity and/or safety of the physical habitat, facilities, equipment of health center require that they are made known.

H) On Managers, Auditors and other Professionals in the area

Art.-591 Economists, accountants, managers and other Health Service-related professionals have the obligation to defend the ethical principle of JUSTICE in connection with resource allocation and procedure control.

I) On Nutritionists

Art.-592 Nutritionists shall protect themselves against the commercial influence that suppliers will try to exert.

Art.-593 They shall pay attention to the quality of the products they use, in particular of those that lend themselves to conflict on account of their transgenic origin.

J) On Midwives

Art.-594 Midwives' professional activity is not autonomous, but strictly connected with the specialist's work.

Art.-595 It is against the law and ethics to take part in abortion procedures even as a mere collaborator.

K) On Social Service Professionals

Art.-596 Their work within the heart of the family or the person's intimacy obliges them to full respect for the confidentiality of the information they obtain.

Art.-597 Discrimination based on the knowledge of private aspects of persons in their charge is unethical conduct.