

BOOK II
ON THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
CHAPTER 9
ON TEAM MEDICINE

Art.-129 The Health Team's prime objective is that a group of persons working in harmony can offer excellence in health care for patients they are in charge of, trying to cure the patient or alleviate her or his suffering.

Art.-130 Health Team members must be aware that at all times they their decision making shall have to be connected with two elements – the scientific and the ethical – which are essential in their formation as human beings.

Art.-131 The Health Team shall have an indispensable training period and process not only on strategies and scientific and technical procedures, but also on moral values and ethical conduct in particular.

Art.-132 The medical act may or may not be carried out (abandonment). If carried out it may be a) accepted, or b) not accepted. The latter case may constitute a form of imprudence, lack of skill or negligence in terms of team work. Based on this, it is necessary to control the technical capacity and moral values, especially of the essential components of the medical act:

Paragraph a) the doctor-patient relationship

Paragraph b) Learning

Paragraph c) Research

Paragraph d) the specific medical activity

Art.-133 The Health Team head or leader has additional responsibilities of her or his own:

Paragraph a) Ethical conduct towards those who report to her or him

Paragraph b) Recognition of the multidisciplinary nature of those who make up the Team

Paragraph c) Institutional relations

Paragraph d) Control of the social, economical and legal environment, which may vary from deep gratitude to hostility, annoyance and aggression, of opinion as well as of legal action.

Art.-134 From the legal point of view, the following responsibilities may arise:

Paragraph a) Direct: against the team

Paragraph b) shared: against some members.

Paragraph c) Collective: when the final responsible of the medical action cannot be individualized.

Paragraph d) Joint: when involving assisting staff (nurses, OR nurses, physical therapists, hemotherapists and other health care professionals).

Paragraph e) concurrent: when involving the physician and the patient.

Art.-135 Indiscreetness by the Health Team as a whole or by any of its members is deemed to be serious unethical conduct because it violates confidentiality and medical secret.

Art.-136 The Team head and even the Team members are responsible for accepting to work in a place where there are no technical, environmental, and infrastructure conditions allowing the right development of their specific activities.

Art.-137 The full medical record is one of the mainstays of medical care and several team members have responsibilities attached to it.

Art.-138 Teamwork does not exempt the team leader or those with assigned functions from complying with the free Informed Consent, whose characteristics in some procedures are beyond the signing of a pre-established form.

Art.-139 Team work shall not prevent the patient from knowing who the professional in charge is. However, the Team leader shall continue sharing the responsibility before the patient and the law.