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# Sick Call Screener Course

## Ethics

### (1.2)



# Enabling Objectives

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- 1.4 Describe the ethical aspects of military medicine



# Hospital Corpsman Pledge

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE MYSELF BEFORE GOD  
AND THESE WITNESSES  
TO PRACTICE FAITHFULLY  
ALL OF MY DUTIES AS A MEMBER OF  
THE HOSPITAL CORPS.  
I HOLD THE CARE OF THE SICK AND INJURED TO BE A  
SACRED TRUST  
AND WILL ASSIST THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
WITH LOYALTY AND HONESTY.  
I WILL NOT KNOWINGLY PERMIT HARM TO COME TO  
ANY PATIENT.  
I WILL NOT PARTAKE OF NOR ADMINISTER  
ANY UNAUTHORIZED MEDICATION. I WILL HOLD  
ALL PERSONAL MATTERS  
PERTAINING TO THE PRIVATE LIVES OF  
PATIENTS IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.  
I DEDICATE MY  
HEART, MIND, AND STRENGTH  
TO THE WORK BEFORE ME.  
I SHALL DO ALL WITHIN MY POWER  
TO SHOW IN MYSELF AN  
EXAMPLE OF ALL THAT IS  
HONORABLE AND GOOD  
THROUGHOUT  
MY NAVAL CAREER.



<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/251871/hm-school-graduation-first-its-kind>



# Universal Medical Ethics Principles

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- **Autonomy**
  - the right of competent individuals to make informed decisions free from coercion
- **Beneficence**
  - requires that health care professionals act in the patient's best interest
- **Nonmaleficence**
  - requires that the health care professional do no harm or not impose unnecessary or unacceptable burdens on the patient



# Universal Medical Ethics Principles (Cont.)

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- Justice two principles
  - Formal (similar cases treated similarly)
  - Material (determines if cases are similar)

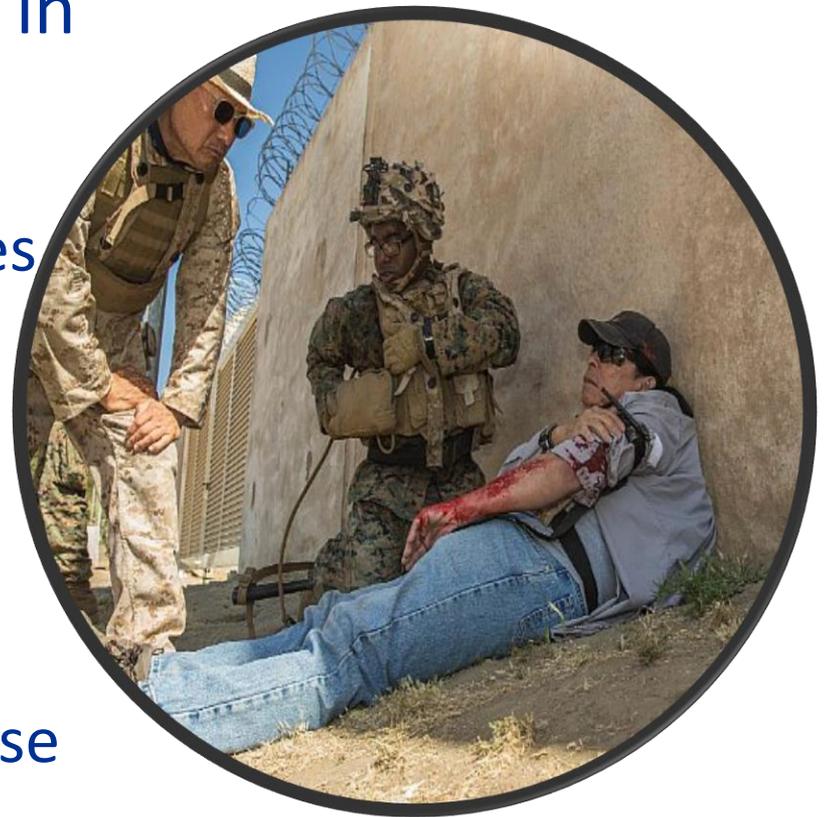


(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Danny Ray Nunez Jr./Released)



# The Concept of Moral Injury

- Military personnel serving in combat zones will be confronted with
  - numerous ethical challenges
  - moral challenges
- Transgressions can arise
  - from individual acts of commission or omission
  - the behavior of others
  - by bearing witness to intense human suffering



(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Joshua M. Jackson/Released)



# Ethical Issues in Military Medical Settings

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- Military health care professionals:
  - Serve in a variety of settings
  - Face the same ethical dilemmas found in the civilian health care sector
  - Cannot always resolve ethical conflicts alone



# Decision-Making

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- Ethical decision making in medicine
- Finding a balance between respect for conscience
- Objections to providing care based on conscience affect someone's health
  - Health care professionals have the duty to refer patients in a timely manner to other providers
  - In an emergency in which referral is not possible
  - Rights to withdraw from caring for an individual



# Ethics Education and Training

- Stimulate the moral imagination
  - The ability to gain a feel for the lives of others
  - Insight how moral viewpoints influence
  - Broaden the moral imagination
- Recognize Ethical Issues
  - Structure perceptions
  - Consider possible moral issues



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stephane Belcher/Released)



# Ethics Education and Training (Cont.)

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- Develop analytical skills - use concepts in constructing defensible arguments
- Elicit a sense of moral obligation and responsibility - replace assumptions and beliefs
- Cope with moral ambiguity - we must learn to tolerate disagreements



(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Allen Lee/Released)



# Summary and Review

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- 1.4 Describe the ethical aspects of military medicine
- Assignment
  - Read Assignment Sheet SOAP Note, Assignment Sheet SCSC 1.3-4
  - Read SOAP Note, Outline Sheet SCSC 1.3-1 and Sample SOAP Note, Diagram Sheet SCSC 1.3-5



# Questions

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**R<sup>3</sup>**

Relevant, Responsive, Requested

1.2-2-12