



## (2) Accountability and Professionalism Responsibilities

**Done By: Khulood AlRaddadi**  
**Revised By: Khalid AlOsaimi**

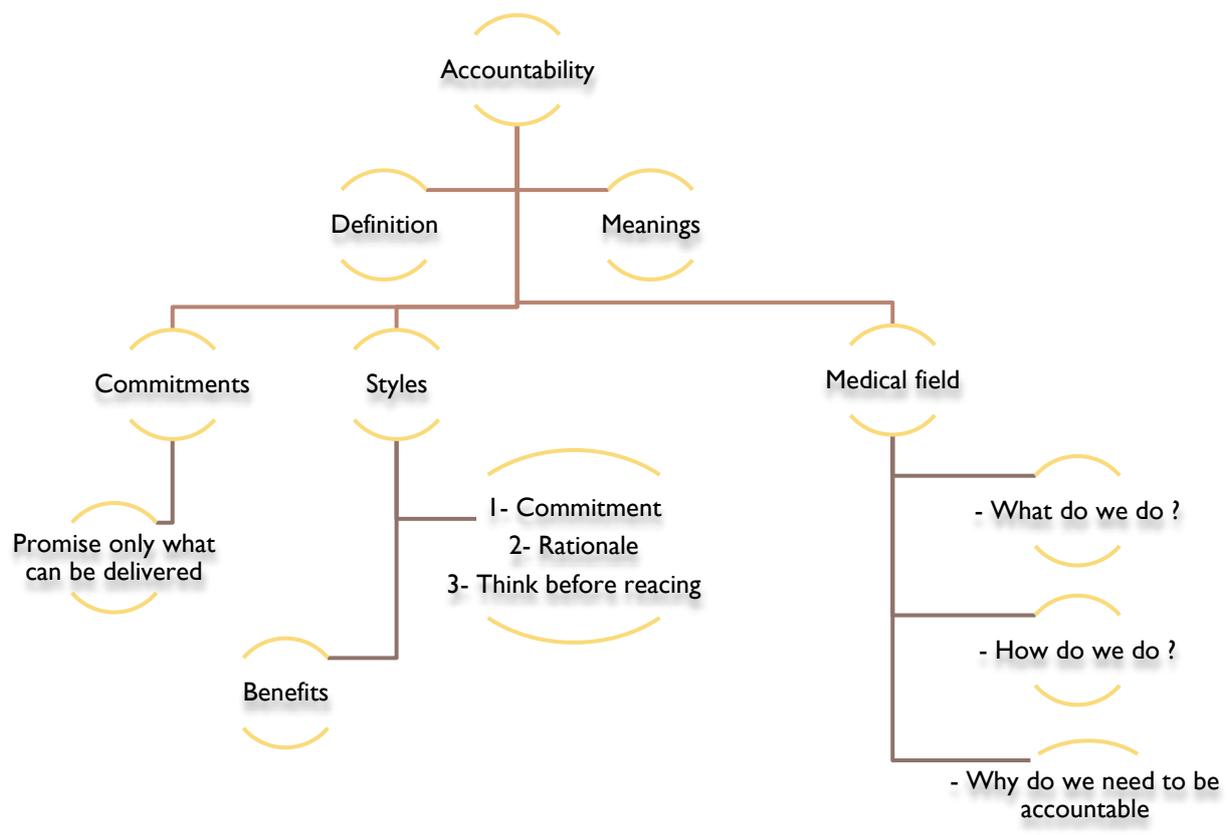
Khalid AlOsaimi & Khulood AlRaddadi  
Professionalism432@gmail.com

# Objectives and Mind Map

## Objectives:

- Understand the meaning of accountability.
- Discuss the place of accountability in professionalism.
- Understand why accountability is needed in the medical profession.
- Understand the key components of accountability.
- Discuss some practical examples about accountability.
- Apply knowledge learnt to a case scenario.

## Mind Map:



Strong and Positive self-image is the best possible preparation for Success.

# Accountability and Professionalism Responsibilities

## Definition of Accountability:

- One of the key elements of professionalism.
- It means procedures and processes by which one party justifies and takes responsibility for its activities.
- It comprises responsibilities to: patients, patient-physician relationship, colleagues, profession and society and public.

## Meanings of accountability: (Important)

Meaning	How
Responsibility:	Accountable to patients, families, society & community, quality of care, resolving conflict, and upholding principles.
Self-regulation in activities:	Actions and behavior should reflect legal, good ethical conduct, without financial conflict.
Standard setting for current and future members of the profession:	Maintain professional standards in day-to-day practices.
Ability to resolve conflict:	Disclose any conflict (financial or pharmaceutical) that could damage doctor's accountability.
Free acceptance of duty to serve public:	Improving the standards of the health care of the community, the country and worldwide.
Explain and give reasons for actions that could have caused harm:	To the patient, colleagues, and community.

## Professionals' commitments:

- Professional competence.
- Honesty with patients.
- Patient confidentiality.
- Maintaining appropriate relations with the patients.
- Improving quality of care and health of the community.
- Improving access to care.
- Distribution of finite resources.
- Acquiring scientific knowledge.
- Maintaining trust by managing conflicts of interest.
- Cooperation and collegiality.
- Open and honest relationships with colleagues and third parties.

} Reasoning for your action that could harm others/patients



## Responsible style:

Style	Benefit
Promising only what can be delivered:	Commitment, delivered on time, accountability.
Supporting the basic tents of the profession:	Develops a philosophy and sound rationale for professional practice.
<b>Thinking before reacting:</b>	Foresees possible outcomes of professional actions.
Evaluating his/her professional practice:	Confronts discrepancies between intentions and action

## Social accountability of medical students:

- **Accountability is not needed as a knowledge; it is needed as a behavior and practice.**
- Why it is important in the medical field:
  - To enhance the health of people by:
    - Educating physicians & medical students.
    - Conducting research in clinical and basic sciences.
    - Promoting the skills and attitudes of lifelong learning.
  - **Preparation of future doctors to respond to population needs.**

## Take Home Messages

- **Accountability means taking or holding responsibility of what you have done.**
- To be accountable you need to have self-regulation in your day-to-day actions.
- Accountability requires:
  - Maintaining standard setting.
  - Resolving conflicts (financial, ethical, moral, pharmaceutical etc.).
  - Accepting duties for the public **even if it is challenging.**
- As medical students, we need to demonstrate accountability in our small group discussion, student-led seminars, and when we are working with others in teams.
- Make sure you make yourself accountable for whatever you have done.



## Questions

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Q1: Three resident doctors are working in the surgical ward and have been asked by hospital administration to go to a rural area 300 km from where they live to do surgeries on patients as part of university service. Two of them refused to go and requested to be paid for the service. Which one of the following best describes the two residents 'attitude':

- A- Altruism.
- B- Not interested about work in rural areas.
- C- Lack social accountability.

Q2: Which one of the following means accountability:

- A- Resolving and disclosing conflict.
- B- Thinking before reacting.
- C- Cooperation and collegiality.

Q3: Which one of the following is NOT a responsibility style:

- A- Promising only what can be delivered.
- B- Professional competence.
- C- Evaluating the professional practice.

Answers: 1- C 2- A 3- B



### Quiz:

- 1- Give a brief definition of accountability illustrating the six domains related to accountability.
- 2- Explain how self-regulation is a part of accountability? Give an example.
- 3- It is on week away from exam time. The college asked you to join a team doing health protection in a nearby village. You have to join with the team for a whole day. Will you accept the invitation? Why?
- 4- Should we do work to the community on voluntary basis? Why?