



# PROFESSIONALISM

## Lecture2:

### Accountability, Altruism & Integrity

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Please note that this file contains summaries and important notes only, your original source for studying is the full lectures file made by team 434, which will be revised by team 435 after each lecture. Link: [Lectures file \(revised\)](#).

### Summary:

❖ **Discuss the meaning and the key components of Accountability.**

**Definition:** “...Procedures and processes by which one party justifies and takes responsibility for its activities”

#### Key components:

1. **Responsibility**
2. **Self-regulation in activities**
3. **Standard setting** for current and future members of the profession
4. Ability to **resolve conflict** (financial, ethical, moral, pharmaceutical etc).
5. Free acceptance of duty to serve public
6. Explain and give reasons for actions that could have caused harm to the patient, colleagues, and community

❖ **Discuss the place of accountability in professionalism.**

Accountability is very important in professionalism as it comprises responsibilities to colleagues, profession, society and public. Which makes the professional trustworthy and accountable for his responsibilities and mistakes.

❖ **Explain why Accountability is needed in the medical profession.**

1. **Providing optimal health care services.**
2. Enables continuing improvements.
3. Helps in protecting the rights of patients.
4. Resolving conflicts.
5. Building trust, and ensuring that the workplace environment is safe and healthy.
6. Reflects behavior and attitude of responsible people.

❖ **Discuss the meaning and key components of Altruism and Integrity.**

**Altruism:**

**Definition:** to **put the duty and patient care ahead of your own needs.**

**Key components:**

- Donate time to humanitarian causes.
- Help or treat patients who are poor or cannot afford the costs of the service.
- Going beyond the call of duty to help patients.
- Show selfless behavior and the willingness to serve others, particularly those in need.
- Unselfish concern for the welfare of others.
- Subordinate your own interest to the interest of others.

**Integrity:**

**Definition:** Latin adjective “integer” meaning the inner sense of “wholeness” as represented by a number of values such as honesty, trustworthy, fairness, and no favoritism. Integrity is about demonstrating that the values you hold you are applying in your **day-to-day practice.**

**Key components:**

1. Highest standards of behavior.
2. Refusal to violate one’s personal professional codes.
3. Being fair, honest and truthful.
4. Keeping one’s word.
5. Avoidance of relationships that allow personal gain to supersede the best interest of patients.

6. Not working in the darkness or involved in any behavior that aims at harming others or taking their rights without their knowledge.

❖ **Interpret some practical examples about Accountability, Altruism and Integrity.**  
(examples from lecture 1)

**Accountability:**

- 1) Accept responsibility.
- 2) Always consider confidentiality.
- 3) Work on resolving conflicts.
- 4) Avoid the business of blaming others, circumstances or how much you are busy

**Altruism:**

- 1) Put the patient first.
- 2) Avoid any conflict between your needs and the patients' rights.
- 3) Give full commitment to your patient.
- 4) Avoid any financial or relationship biases

**Integrity:**

- 1) Be a principle-based person.
- 2) Be honest, and stand by your words.
- 3) Be fair, & do what you say.
- 4) Do not abuse your position/authority.

❖ **Apply knowledge learnt to case scenarios. (example)**

Dr . J.A. is a known urology surgeon working in one of the Ministry of Health hospitals. One of his patients has a chronic renal failure and is recommended for a kidney transplantation. Dr .J.A. agrees to conduct the operation. Over the next four weeks he works on preparing the patient for the operation. Two days before the operation, Dr .J.As' nurse rang the family and informed them that Dr .J.A. is travelling overseas and the operation will be postponed. They will be informed about the time of the operation when he is back in two months.

**What do you think about Dr. J.A. attitude? Explain your views.**

He made a mistake by comprising his patient's health for his personal needs, neither informing him nor referring his case to another doctor.

**What would you do differently if you were Dr. J.A.?**

- Postponing the trip for a better time –if possible-
- Informing the patient and his family of the situation beforehand.
- Arranging for the patient's procedure to be performed by another trustworthy surgeon.