

Value Professionalism

Compliments of CORE Faculty Development

I. Review definition/description of professionalism

Residents

Residents are expected to uphold the Osteopathic Oath in the conduct of their professional activities that promote advocacy of patient welfare, adherence to ethical principles, collaboration with health professionals, life-long learning, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population. Residents should be cognizant of their own physical and mental health in order to effectively care for patients. (AOA Core Competency 5: Professionalism).

Physicians

Professionalism represents the consummate demeanor of physicians in their caring for patients and includes conducting themselves in an ethical and moral manner, investing the patients in their own care, maintaining their patient's health, applying the latest advances of the sciences of medicine by initiating appropriate and compassionate treatment, and being a friendly confidant to the patient in the good times and bad. (Mufson, 1997)

Professionalism - Physicians

Professionalism is the basis of medicine's contract with society. It demands placing the interests of patients above those of the physician, setting and maintaining standards of competence and integrity, and providing expert advice to society on matters of health. The principles and responsibilities of medical professionalism must be clearly understood by both the profession and society. Essential to this contract is public trust in physicians, which depends on the integrity of both individual physicians and the whole profession. (ABIM Medical Professionalism Project)

II. Reiterate the 3 Fundamental Principles of Professionalism

- Primacy of patient welfare
- Patient autonomy
- Social justice

III. Practice Professional Responsibilities

- Commitment to Professional Competence
 - Lifelong professional development.
 - Maintenance of competence.
- Commitment to Honesty with Patients
 - Inform patients completely and honestly before and after treatment.
 - Empower patients to participate in decisions affecting their health.
 - Disclose fully and promptly all medical errors.
- Commitment to Patient Confidentiality

- Adhere to all safeguards governing the disclosure of patient information.
- Disclose confidential information only when considerations of public interest override the interests of privacy.
- Commitment to Maintaining Appropriate Relations with Patients
 - Recognize inherent vulnerability and dependency of patients.
 - Never exploit patients for sexual advantage, personal financial gain, or other private purpose.
- Commitment to Scientific Knowledge
 - Uphold scientific standards.
 - Promote research to create new knowledge.
 - Ensure appropriate use of scientific information.
- Commitment to Professional Responsibilities
 - Participate in the processes of self-regulation.
 - Assist in establishing educational and standard-setting activities.
 - Accept external scrutiny of professional performance.
- Commitment to Improving Quality of Care
 - Work collaboratively to reduce medical error, increase patient safety, minimize overuse, and optimize outcomes of care.
 - Help develop and implement better measures of quality health care.
- Commitment to Improving Access to Health Care
 - Strive to reduce barriers to equitable health care.
 - Promote the health of the public without concern for self-interest.
- Commitment to a Just Distribution of Resources
 - Base individual patient care decisions on cost-effective management of limited resources.
 - Work collaboratively to develop clinical guidelines.
 - Scrupulously avoid superfluous tests and procedures.
- Maintain Trust by Managing Conflicts of Interest
 - Recognize the existence of many opportunities to pursue private gain.
 - Prepare to resist temptation.
 - Disclose all conflicts of interest involving professional activities.

References

AOA Core Competency

ABIM online resources on Professionalism