



**SNS SNSCAHS OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
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PAPER 2:MEDICINE AND MEDICAL ETHICS

TOPIC:PROFESSIONAL SECRECY



- *It is an implied term of contract between the doctor and his patient*
- *The doctor is obliged to keep secret all that he comes to know concerning the patient in the course of his professional work*
- *Its disclosure would be a failure of trust and confidence*
- *The patient can sue the doctor for damage if the disclosure is voluntary*
- *Resulted in harm to the patient and it is not interest of the public*



The following points may be noted:

- 1. The doctor should not discuss the illness of his patient with others without the consent of the patient*
- 2. If the patient is major the doctor should not disclose any facts about the illness without his consent to parents or relatives even though they may be paying the doctor's fees*
- 3. In the case of a minor or an insane person guardians or parents should be informed the nature of illness*
- 4. A doctor should not disclose any information about the illness of his patient without the consent of the patient even when requested by a public or statutory body.*



5. Even in the case of husband and wife the facts relating to the nature of illness of the one must not be disclosed to the other without the consent of the concerned person

6. In divorce and multy cases no information should be given without getting the consent of the person.



1. *medical officers in government service are also bound the code of professional secrecy even when the patient is treated free*
2. *A person in police custody as an undertrial prisoner has the right not to permit the doctor who has examined him to disclose the nature of his illness to any person*
3. *In the examination of a dead body certain facts may be found the disclosure which may affect the repulation of the diseased or cause mental suffering to his relatives and as such the doctor should maintain secrecy...*



THANK YOU