

ETHICS PRINCIPLES (CORE CONCEPTS)

Beneficence = “Do good”

- Acting in the **best interest of the patient**
- Examples:
 - Ensuring proper positioning to avoid repeats
 - Providing comfort and reassurance

Think: “*What benefits the patient?*”

Nonmaleficence = “Do no harm”

- Avoid causing **physical or emotional harm**
- Examples:
 - Using proper shielding
 - Avoiding unnecessary radiation

Memory trick: “*Non = none → no harm*”

Autonomy = Patient choice

- Patients have the **right to make their own decisions**
- Includes:
 - Accepting or refusing treatment
 - Asking questions

Key point: Even if you disagree, you must respect it.

Justice = Fair treatment

- Treat **all patients equally**
- No discrimination based on:
 - Age, race, gender, socioeconomic status

Think: “*Justice = fairness system*”

Confidentiality = Protect patient info

- Do NOT share patient information without permission
- Applies to:
 - Verbal conversations
 - Written records
 - Electronic data

Violations = legal consequences

LEGAL TERMS (VERY TESTED)

Negligence

- Failure to act like a **reasonable professional**
- Example:
 - Forgetting to lock wheelchair → patient falls

Malpractice

- **Professional negligence** that causes harm
- Requires 4 elements:
 1. Duty
 2. Breach
 3. Harm
 4. Causation

Exam tip: If harm occurred → MALPRACTICE

Assault

- Threat or fear of harm (NO TOUCHING)
- Example:
 - “If you don’t stay still, I’ll hold you down”

Battery

- **Touching without consent**
- Example:
 - Performing exam without patient permission

False Imprisonment

- Holding a patient against their will
- Example:
 - Locking a patient in a room

CONSENT TYPES

Implied Consent

- Given through **actions**
- Example:
 - Patient rolls up sleeve for injection

Expressed Consent

- **Verbal or written**
- Example:
 - “Yes, you can do the exam”

Informed Consent

- Patient must understand:
 - Risks
 - Benefits
 - Alternatives

Required for:

- Surgery
- Invasive procedures

PATIENT RIGHTS

Patients have the right to:

- **Refuse treatment**
- **Privacy & confidentiality**
- **Be informed**
- **Respect and dignity**

If a patient refuses:

- Document it
- Notify physician
- DO NOT force care

LAWS & REGULATIONS

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)

- Protects patient **health information (PHI)**
- Applies to:
 - Conversations
 - Computer records
 - Social media

BIG exam point:

- Talking about patients in hallways = violation

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Scope of Practice

- What you are **legally allowed to do**
- Exceeding it = legal violation

Accountability

- Being responsible for your actions

Integrity

- Doing the right thing even when no one is watching

Professionalism

- Appearance, behavior, attitude
- Examples:
 - Wearing ID badge
 - Being respectful

Competence

- Maintaining skills through:
 - Continuing education
 - Practice

COMMUNICATION

Effective communication:

- Clear
- Respectful
- Professional

Includes:

- Explaining procedures
- Listening to patients
- Using appropriate tone

DOCUMENTATION

“If it wasn’t documented, it wasn’t done.”

Good documentation must be:

- Accurate
- Complete
- Timely

NEVER:

- Guess
- Leave blanks
- Alter records

ETHICAL VIOLATIONS

Examples:

- Sharing patient info → **Confidentiality breach**
- Accepting expensive gifts → **Professional ethics violation**
- Working outside training → **Scope violation**

Radiologic technologists must:

Act in the patient’s **BEST interest**

Examples:

- Minimize radiation exposure
- Ensure correct positioning
- Avoid repeat exams

- **Beneficence** = Do good
- **Nonmaleficence** = Do no harm
- **Autonomy** = Patient decides
- **Justice** = Fair treatment
- **Confidentiality** = Keep info private
- **Negligence** = Mistake
- **Malpractice** = Mistake + harm
- **Assault** = Threat
- **Battery** = Touch
- **Implied** = Actions