

LMRT Ethics, Legal Considerations, & Professionalism Review

Ethics in Radiologic Technology

- Ethics are moral principles that guide behavior and decision-making.

Core Ethical Principles

- Autonomy – Respecting a patient’s right to make their own decisions
- Beneficence – Doing good for the patient
- Nonmaleficence – “Do no harm”
- Justice – Treating patients fairly and equally
- Veracity – Truthfulness
- Confidentiality – Protecting patient information

ARRT Code of Ethics

- Act in the best interest of the patient
- Maintain professional competence
- Deliver care without discrimination
- Practice with honesty and integrity
- Respect patient dignity

Legal Considerations in LMRT

Types of Law

- Criminal Law – Deals with crimes (ex: assault, abuse)
- Civil Law – Deals with disputes (ex: malpractice lawsuits)

Key Legal Terms

- Negligence : Failure to act as a reasonable professional would

Example: Not checking patient ID

- Malpractice : Professional negligence that causes harm

Example: Wrong body part imaged

Torts (Wrongs)

Intentional Torts

- Assault – Threat of harm
- Battery – Physical contact without consent
- False Imprisonment – Holding a patient against their will
- Defamation – Damaging someone’s reputation
- Libel (written)
- Slander (spoken)

Unintentional Torts

- Negligence
- Malpractice

Informed Consent

Patient must:

- Be fully informed
- Understand procedure risks
- Give voluntary permission

Types:

- Expressed (written or verbal)
- Implied (actions suggest consent)

Patient Rights

- Right to privacy
- Right to refuse treatment
- Right to informed consent
- Right to respect and dignity

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)

- Protects patient health information (PHI)
- Limits who can access patient data
- Violations can result in fines or termination

Documentation

Must be:

- Accurate
- Complete
- Timely

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

Professionalism in LMRT

Key Traits

- Accountability
- Integrity
- Respect
- Communication skills
- Dependability

Appearance & Behavior

- Proper uniform
- Clean, neat appearance
- ID badge visible
- No inappropriate behavior

Communication

- Use clear, simple language
- Show empathy
- Maintain eye contact
- Respect cultural differences

Scope of Practice

- Perform only duties within training and certification

Do NOT:

- Diagnose
- Prescribe
- Perform unauthorized procedures

Professional Boundaries

Avoid:

- Personal relationships with patients
- Accepting large gifts
- Sharing personal information

Continuing Education

- Required to maintain certification
- Ensures up-to-date knowledge and patient safety

Cultural Competence

Cultural competence = the ability to provide care that respects a patient's:

- Beliefs
- Values
- Language
- Traditions

Key Components

- Awareness – Recognize your own biases
- Knowledge – Learn about different cultures
- Skill – Adapt care appropriately
- Respect – Never judge beliefs or practices

Communication Across Cultures

Language Barriers

- Use certified medical interpreters (NOT family members if possible)
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Avoid medical jargon

Nonverbal Communication

- Eye contact may:
 - ❖ Show respect in some cultures
 - ❖ Be considered rude in others
- Personal space varies
- Touch may be restricted in certain cultures/religions

Religious Considerations in Imaging

Common Examples

- Some patients may refuse:
 - ❖ Exposure of certain body parts
 - ❖ Opposite-gender caregivers
- Some religions prohibit:
 - ❖ Blood products
 - ❖ Certain medical procedures

Modesty & Privacy

- Always provide:
 - ❖ Proper gowning
 - ❖ Draping
 - ❖ Same-gender assistance when possible

Ethnic & Cultural Sensitivity in Care

Important Considerations

- Pain expression varies by culture
- Family involvement may be:
 - ❖ Minimal OR
 - ❖ Very involved in decision-making
- Some patients prefer:
 - ❖ Holistic or traditional remedies

Professional Responsibilities

- Treat all patients with dignity and respect
- Avoid stereotyping
- Adapt care without compromising safety or quality
- Ask questions respectfully if unsure

Example:

“Do you have any cultural or religious preferences we should be aware of?”

Ethics + Cultural Care Connection

- Autonomy → Respect beliefs even if different
- Beneficence → Provide the best care within those beliefs
- Nonmaleficence → Avoid emotional or cultural harm
- Justice → Equal care regardless of background

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1. _____ is the principle of doing good for the patient.
 2. _____ means “do no harm.”
 3. Respecting a patient’s decisions is called _____.
 4. Protecting patient information is known as _____.
 5. Treating all patients fairly refers to _____.
 6. Failure to act as a reasonable professional is called _____.
 7. Professional negligence resulting in harm is _____.
 8. Threatening a patient without touching them is _____.
 9. Physical contact without consent is _____.
 10. Holding a patient against their will is _____.
 11. _____ consent is given through patient actions.
 12. Patients must be fully informed before giving _____.
 13. The law that protects patient information is _____.
 14. A patient has the right to _____ treatment.
 15. Patients have the right to privacy and _____.
 16. Performing duties outside your training violates your _____.
 17. Maintaining honesty and strong moral principles is called _____.
 18. Wearing proper attire and ID reflects _____.
 19. Continuing education helps maintain _____.
 20. Clear and respectful interaction with patients is called _____.
 21. “If it wasn’t documented, it wasn’t _____.”
 22. Medical records must be accurate, complete, and _____.
 23. Sharing patient information without permission violates _____.
 24. Accepting expensive gifts from patients violates _____.

25. Radiologic technologists must always act in the patient's _____ interest.
26. Recognizing your own biases is called cultural _____.
27. Avoiding judgment of beliefs shows _____.
28. Learning about different traditions is cultural _____.
29. Adapting care appropriately is a cultural _____.
30. When language barriers exist, use a certified _____.
31. Family members should _____ be used as interpreters when possible.
32. Speaking clearly and simply helps overcome _____ barriers.
33. Eye contact may have different meanings depending on _____.
34. Personal space differences are part of _____ communication.
35. Some patients may request a _____-gender technologist.
36. Providing proper covering for patients is called _____.
37. Respecting modesty is part of patient _____.
38. Religious beliefs may affect acceptance of certain _____.
39. Patients may refuse procedures based on _____ beliefs.
40. Avoid making assumptions or _____ about patients.
41. All patients must be treated with _____ and respect.
42. Family involvement varies by _____.
43. Asking respectful questions shows _____ communication.
44. Care must be adapted without compromising patient _____.
45. Cultural sensitivity improves patient _____ and trust.