Medical Research Ethics: Principles and Challenges

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Objectives

- Foundations of research ethics
- key historical cases
- Apply ethical principles in research design
- Ethics institutions and committees
- Do's and Don'ts of Using Artificial Intelligence in Research

Research Ethics

- Research ethics is a set of principles, values, and norms that guide the design, implementation, reporting, and publication of studies.
- Its aim is to protect both the integrity of the scientific process and the rights and dignity of human and animal participants.
- Research ethics seeks to answer the question:
 - "What is right and what is wrong when we pursue scientific truth?"

Medical experiments on Nazi concentration camp prisoners- 1940s



Syphilis testing on blacks (Tuskegee Study) 1932-1972



Hepatitis testing on children (Willow brook study) 1956-1970



What do these studies have in common?

- ☐ Abusing vulnerable groups
- Refuse to obtain consent
- Refuse to inform study subjects
- ☐ Harm to people

Nuremberg Code (1947)

☐ Background:

- Developed after Nazi doctors' trials in Nuremberg
- First international code on human research ethics

☐ Key Principles:

- Voluntary informed consent is essential.
- Research must have scientific and social value.
- Avoid unnecessary harm and suffering.
- No research with high risk of death/disability.
- Participants can withdraw anytime.

Declaration of Helsinki (1964, WMA)

☐ Background:

- Adopted by World Medical Association
- Expanded on the Nuremberg Code, aimed at physicians

☐ Key Principles:

- Patient/participant welfare takes priority over science.
- Informed consent is required.
- Independent Ethics Committees must review protocols
- Extra protection for vulnerable groups
- Results (positive or negative) must be published
- Placebo use is limited to necessary cases

Belmont Report (1979, USA)

Background:

- Response to Tuskegee Syphilis Study scandal.
- Issued by U.S. National Commission.

Three Ethical Principles:

- Respect for Persons: Autonomy, informed consent.
- **Beneficence:** Maximize benefits, minimize harm.
- Justice: Fair selection and distribution of burdens/benefits.

Principles of Research Ethics in Medicine

1. Respect for Persons (Autonomy)

- Voluntary informed consent
- •Clear, simple, understandable information
- •Right to withdraw anytime

2. Beneficence & Non-Maleficence

- Maximize benefits, minimize risks
- •Risk-benefit assessment
- Adverse event prediction & planning
- Safety monitoring and adverse event reporting

Principles of Research Ethics in Medicine (Cont.)

3. Justice

- Fair selection of participants
- No exploitation of vulnerable groups
- •Equal access to research benefits

4. Scientific Integrity

- Honesty in data, methods, and reporting
- No fabrication, falsification, plagiarism
- Authorship transparency and conflict of interest disclosure

5. Confidentiality & Data Protection

- Secure storage, anonymization
- Role-based access
- Compliance with national/international laws

Committees & Institutions

International Bioethics Committee (UNESCO - IBC)

- Founded in 1993 under UNESCO, Composed of 36 independent experts from diverse countries
- Main objectives:
 - Examine emerging ethical issues in life sciences and medicine
 - Promote international dialogue on common bioethical principles
 - Assist governments in shaping national bioethics policies
 - Develop key international declarations and guidelines
- Examples: Human Genome & Human Rights (1997), Genetic Data (2003)
- Provides global ethical framework (not legally binding)

Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)

- Founded in 1949 by UNESCO and WHO, works closely with WHO
- Main role:
 - Develop international ethical guidelines for biomedical and healthrelated research.
 - Promote global collaboration in medical sciences.
 - Provide guidance for national regulations, especially in developing countries
- Publishes 'International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research'
- ► Focus: protection of research participants & transparency
- Key global reference for medical research ethics

World Medical Association(WMA)

- Founded in 1947 as an independent international NGO,
 Represents more than 115 national medical associations and
 millions of physicians worldwide
- Promotes the highest standards of medical ethics,professionalism, and human rights
- Core principles:
 - patient interests
 - informed consent
 - independent review
- Updated several times (latest 2013)
- Considered the most influential ethics document worldwide

National Research Ethics Portal (Iran)

- Online platform for registering and reviewing proposals
- Issues official ethics approval codes
- Provides transparency and tracking of research projects
- Essential tool for researchers and librarians as consultants

www. ethics.research.ac.ir



National & University Ethics Committees (Iran)

- National Committee of Ethics in Biomedical Research (Ministry of Health)
- Defines national policy, supervises universities
- University-level committees approve research protocols
- Ethical approval code required for all biomedical research

www.rde.sums.ac.ir/ethic-committee









تماس با ما 🗸



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فرم ها، آیین نامه ها، فرآیندها 🗸

واحدهای تابعه 🗸

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صفحه اصلی/ کارگروه اخلاق در پژوهش

معرفي كارگروه اخلاق

اعضای کارگروه اخلاق دانشگاه

همکاران کارگروه اخلاق دانشگاه

كميته هاى اخلاق تابعه

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آیین نامه و بخشنامه ها

فرآيندها

به منظور رعایت و بکارگیری اصول و موازین اخلاقی در پژوهش های علوم پزشکی و حفاظت از آزمون های انسانی در تحقیقات علوم پزشکی و استفاده از نظرات صاحبنظران حیطه های مختلف علوم زیستی، کارگروه های اخلاق در پژوهش های علوم پزشکی در دانشگاه های علوم پزشکی کشور تشکیل می گردد. در دانشگاه علوم پزشکی شیراز به عنوان قطب پزشکی جنوب کشور کمیته اخلاق در پژوهش در زمستان ۱۳۷۰ بصورت درون دانشگاهی تشکیل و از سال ۱۳۷۸ بصورت رسمی و بر طبق دستوالعمل وزارت متبوع شکل گرفته و كماكان به فعاليت خود ادامه مي دهد

سامانه ها 🗸

این کمیته در دانشگاه علوم پزشکی شیراز در دو سطح کارگروه اخلاق در پژوهش دانشگاه و کارگروه اخلاق در پژوهش دانشکده پزشکی تشکیل می گردد. بررسی طرح های پژوهشی، رسیدگی به موضوعات و مصادیق تخلفات پژوهشی، سیاستگذاری در امر اخلاق در پژوهش های علوم پزشکی و ابلاغ آیین نامه ها و دستورالعمل های کشوری از جمله شرح وظایف و فعالیت های این کارگروه می باشد. شایان ذکر است دانشگاه های غیر علوم پزشکی منطقه نیز حسب نیاز طرح های خود را که دارای سوژه انسانی می باشند، جهت بررسی، تصویب و اجازه انجام به کارگروه اخلاق در پژوهش های دانشگاه علوم پزشکی شیراز ارسال می نمایند.

Do's and Don'ts of Using Al in Research

Ethical Use of AI in Research

- AI can be used in research production ethically if:
 - The author clearly discloses the type of AI and its usage.
 - The source and method of AI-generated content are

transparently stated in the manuscript, proposal, or article.

• Proper in-text citation and listing in references is provided

for any AI-assisted content.

Restrictions of AI as Author

- AI tools cannot be considered as authors.
- No legal copyright or accountability belongs to AI.
- Reviewers cannot rely on AI to approve scientific work.

Responsibilities and Transparency

- AI should only assist in research, never replace critical judgment.
- Personal or sensitive data must not be shared with AI.
- Authors remain responsible for accuracy, originality, and ethical compliance.

Thank You!