

## 1) Medical Ethics

Principles of Medical Ethics (Adopted by UN General Assembly – December 1982).

### **Ethical responsibilities of physicians in peace and war:**

- Protecting prisoners and detainees from torture, cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment (active or passive participation is prohibited).
- Physicians and health professionals must provide the same quality of medical care to prisoners and detainees as to others.
- Any involvement in torture or degrading treatment is a serious violation of medical ethics.
  - o **Physicians must not use medical knowledge or skills for interrogation, harming health, or in any way that conflicts with international instruments.**

## 2) Tissue Transplantation Act (The Living and the Dead)

### Conditions for taking out an organ for transplantation:

- Fetwa regarding brain death must be followed.
- Specialized physicians, technicians, and facilities must be available at a **recognized** hospital.

- All necessary investigations for both donor and recipient must be done.
- Regulations issued by the Council of Ministers upon suggestion of the Minister of Health.

### Conditions for organ removal from living persons:

- Must not threaten donor's life.
- **Examined by three physicians.**
- Donor must be legally competent and give written consent.
- Organ removal from dead persons allowed if:
  - Deceased had documented will.
  - Consent from parents or guardian.
  - If unclaimed body after 24 hours, with prosecutor (المدعي العام) approval.

**Forensic autopsy:** only cornea may be removed if it does not affect cause of death and guardian agrees.

- Donation must be free of charge (no material gain).
- Organ removal should not cause visible disfigurement.
- **Death must be confirmed by a physician not involved in the transplant.**

Brain death must be confirmed by 3 specialists (neurologist, neurosurgeon, anesthesiologist) + forensic pathologist.

**Violations:** punishable by at least 1 year imprisonment or 10,000 JD fine, or both.

### 3) Abortion (Legal and Illegal)

#### a) Therapeutic Abortion

Conditions:

- Pregnancy continuation **threatens woman's life**.
- Approved by two licensed physicians, one performs the operation.
- Written statement before operation, **4 signed copies** (physicians, patient, husband/guardian).
- Woman's refusal **must be respected** and documented.
- Any abortion outside these conditions is prohibited. Patient's written consent is required.
- **Two physicians must confirm necessity to save her life.**
- Records (operation details, consents, medical reports) must be **kept for 10 years**.
- Those involved in therapeutic abortion cannot be sued criminally.

#### b) Illegal Abortion

Any **prescription or action** to abort without legal justification is a crime.

Punishment applies according to **Jordanian Penal Code**.

#### 4) Artificial Insemination (IVF)

Listed as one of the ethical issues in medicine.

#### 5) Sterilization

Mentioned as a medical ethics and legal concern.

#### 6) Disputed Paternity

Mentioned as a topic under medical ethics.

#### 7) Physician Assisted Suicide

- Prohibited by Jordanian Penal Code (Article 339).
- Instigating or helping suicide: punishable by temporary detention.
- Attempted suicide assistance: 3 months to 2 years imprisonment.
- If results in permanent harm or disability: up to 3 years imprisonment.

#### 8) Cloning

Mentioned as an ethical issue.

#### 9) Ethical and Legal Issues on Medical Negligence

○ Disciplinary and legal procedures against physicians:

- Disciplinary actions.
- Criminal actions.
- Civil actions.

- Negligence defined as **harm caused by commission, omission, or negligence of rules.**

## Three conditions for suing physician:

- Patient harmed.
- Physician committed wrongful act.
- Causal link between harm and act.

## 10) Disciplinary Procedures

Reasons:

- Professional misconduct.
- Medical negligence.
- Breach of duties or rights.
- Refusal of association decisions.
- Harm to profession's honor.

### Disciplinary actions against private sector

physicians may start upon:

- Minister of Health or Public Attorney request.
- Court verdict.
- Complaint from physician or citizen.
- Physician's request to defend against unfair accusations.

### Disciplinary Punishments:

- Warning.
- Reproach.
- Fine (100–1000 JD).
- Deprivation from nomination to council posts.
- Final prevention from practicing medicine for life (erasure from registry).

Decisions are executed by Ministry of Health, Medical Association Council, Public Attorney, etc.