

# How Much of Professional Ethics are Applied by Medical Staff? A Descriptive Cross-Sectional Survey in South of Iran

**Hassan Zabetian<sup>1</sup>, Mansour Deylami<sup>2</sup>, Mohamad Reza Fouladivanda<sup>3</sup>, Amir Hossein Sharifian<sup>4</sup>, Safar Zarei<sup>5</sup> and Naein Molni<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Anaesthesiology, Jahrom University of Medical Sciences, Jahrom, Iran. <sup>2</sup>Department of Anaesthesiology, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Golestan, Iran. <sup>3</sup>Zoonoses Research Center, Jahrom University of Medical Sciences, Jahrom, Iran. <sup>4</sup>Department of Student Research Committee, Jahrom University of Medical Sciences, Jahrom, Iran. <sup>5</sup>Department of Physiology, Jahrom University of Medical Sciences, Jahrom, Iran. <sup>6</sup>Ethics Research Centre, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia.

**DOI :** <http://dx.doi.org/10.13005/bpj/853>

## **Abstract:**

Offering services for health, care, treatment and rehabilitation with an acceptable quality in order to provide, preserve and improve the total society health is the main goal of medical staff. In this way, principles of professional ethics make the staff more capable to concentrate on health, rights and comfort of the patients and keep their professional performance and finally their profession status at the highest level. This study is going to evaluate the rate of codes of ethics applied by the medical staff of the tertiary health care centers affiliated with Jahrom University of Medical Sciences in south of Iran. Two hundred and eleven members of the medical staff collected by census from 8 different wards of tertiary health care centers affiliated with Jahrom University of Medical Sciences in south of Iran, participated voluntary in this descriptive cross-sectional survey. A questionnaire of 41 questions adding to demographic information (age, gender, job experience, and ward) was designed according to 5 degrees Likert scale. Validity and reliability of the questionnaire was proved by previous studies. Collected data analyzed by dependent T-test, Fisher's exact and SPSS.17 using descriptive and deductive statistics. From the 211 samples, 137 (64.9 %) were female and 74 (35.1%) were male. One hundred and thirty one (62%) were in the range of 20 to 30 years old. One hundred and twenty four (58.8%) had 5 to 10 years of job experience and 36 members (17.1%) were from gynecology ward. Rate of observance to the codes of ethics was  $3.82 \pm 0.75$ . The highest scores were: Empathy towards the patients possessed the score  $4.36 \pm 1.15$ , patients care  $4.12 \pm 1.09$ , ignorance

to the illegal cares  $4.10 \pm 1.17$  and justice in offering services  $4.10 \pm 1.15$ . Except the ward ( $p=0.03$ ) and age ( $p=0.003$ ), there was no other significant difference between applying ethical codes and studied factors ( $p > 0.05$ ). Medical staff used a medium level of ethical behaviors in their daily job. So, improving the professional ethics by long term policies and giving proper teachings to the treating personnel in order to improve the medical services efficiency may be suggested.

**Keywords:**

Medical staff; Patients; Professional ethics