Medical Liability

• OBJECTIVES

When you have completed this section, you will be able to do the following:

- Match key terms with their correct meanings.
- Explain the difference between civil law and criminal law.
- Explain medical liability.
- Explain medical malpractice.
- List six common categories of medical malpractice.
- Provide examples of behaviors that are infractions of medical torts.

• ACTIVITY 1

Match each term in Column A to the correct definition in Column B.

Column A

_____ 1. Defamatory

_____ 2. Diagnosis

_____ 3. Informed consent

_____ 4. Liable

_____ 5. Malpractice

_____ 6. Misrepresentations

_____ 7. Obligation

_____ 8. Prudent

_____ 9. Resultant

_____ 10. Tort

Column B

a. Failure of a professional person, as a physician, to render proper services through reprehensible ignorance or negligence or through criminal intent, especially when injury or loss follows

b. An event that is caused by some action

c. Untruths; lies

d. Under civil law, a wrong committed by one person against another

e. Careful; cautious

f. The legal condition in which a person agrees to something, after he or she understands all the facts and implications of an action or event

g. Moral responsibility

h. The identification of a medical condition

i. A statement that causes injury to another's reputation

j. Legally responsible

• ACTIVITY 2

Explain the difference between civil law and criminal law. Give an example of a health care situation that would fall into each category.

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• ACTIVITY 3

1. Explain medical liability.

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2. Explain medical malpractice.

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3. Explain how a professional standard of care is established.

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4. Analyze the phrase "operate within the scope of care."

_____

_____

_____

5. List six common categories of medical malpractice.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

• ACTIVITY 4

Select one of the following terms:

Libel	False imprisonment	Reportable conditions	Reasonable care
Slander	Invasion of privacy	Negligence	Sexual harassment

Research examples related to the term from the health care industry. Select and describe the example. Take turns reading your example to the class and see if they can guess what term you selected. Be sure to not use the term in the example!