

A set of ethical rules and principles to be respected by all persons giving medical care.

The obligation to respect the principles of medical ethics is repeated in the statement of the general protection which positive international law recognizes as due to medical duties.

This states that

- a. no person may be punished for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics, regardless of the circumstances or persons benefiting therefrom, and
- b. persons engaged in medical activities shall not be compelled to perform acts or to carry out work contrary to the rules of medical ethics, to other medical rules designed for the benefit of the wounded and sick ^[1] or to provisions of international law, or to refrain from performing acts or from carrying out work required by those rules and provisions.

OUTLINE

Chapter 7. III. 2. a) – may perform medical duties in conformity with medical ethics ^[2]

Chapter 7. III. 2. c) – right not to perform acts contrary to medical ethics ^[3]

Chapter 7. III. 3. b) respect for medical ethics ^[4]

LEGAL SOURCE

PI, 16/1 ^[5]

PII, 10/2 ^[6]

CIHL, 26 ^[7]

CASES

Iraq, Medical Ethics in Detention ^[8]

Iraq, Care for Wounded Enemies ^[9]

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health ^[10]

Afghanistan, Attack on Kunduz Trauma Centre ^[11]

Syria: Medical support for ISIS ^[12]

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Source URL: <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/medical-ethics-medical-duties>

Links

[1] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/wounded-and-sick>

[2] https://casebook.icrc.org/law/wounded-sick-shipwrecked-dead-and-missing#iii_2_a

[3] https://casebook.icrc.org/law/wounded-sick-shipwrecked-dead-and-missing#iii_2_c

[4] https://casebook.icrc.org/law/wounded-sick-shipwrecked-dead-and-missing#iii_3_b

[5] <https://ihl->

[databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=B0BF1D4A2800D97FC12563CD00](https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=B0BF1D4A2800D97FC12563CD00)

[6]

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=D321BEBD8192C5E0C12563CD>

[7] https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule26

[8] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/iraq-medical-ethics-detention>

[9] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/iraq-care-wounded-enemies>

[10] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/report-special-rapporteur-right-everyone-enjoyment-highest-attainable-standard-physical>

[11] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/afghanistan-attack-kunduz-trauma-centre>

[12] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/syria-medical-support-isis>