

Folks,

American Medical Association new ethical standards infra. These don't change rapidly. I think this is the sixth edition since 1845.

I. A physician shall be dedicated to providing competent medical care, with compassion and respect for human dignity and rights.

II. A physician shall uphold the standards of professionalism, be honest in all professional interactions, and strive to report physicians deficient in character or competence, or engaging in fraud or deception, to appropriate entities.

III. A physician shall respect the law and also recognize a responsibility to seek changes in those requirements which are contrary to the best interests of the patient.

IV. A physician shall respect the rights of patients, colleagues, and other health professionals, and shall safeguard patient confidences and privacy within the constraints of the law.

V. A physician shall continue to study, apply, and advance scientific knowledge, maintain a commitment to medical education, make relevant information available to patients, colleagues, and the public, obtain consultation, and use the talents of other health professionals when indicated.

VI. A physician shall, in the provision of appropriate patient care, except in emergencies, be free to choose whom to serve, with whom to associate, and the environment in which to provide medical care.

VII. A physician shall recognize a responsibility to participate in activities contributing to the improvement of the community and the betterment of public health.

VIII. A physician shall, while caring for a patient, regard responsibility to the patient as paramount.

IX. A physician shall support access to medical care for all people.

Note the difference from the Ten Commandments with its "shall not." Here the positive "shall" as people with illnesses have needs. Maybe, some day, a tenth will be added: "First, do no harm."

As you know, the ICDs provide the codes we must use, but rarely provide the definitions. Thus, beginning in 1952 [DSM-I], to increase consistency, that is, "reliability," the American Psychiatric Association has provided definitions of conditions.

Surprisingly, however, 2017 ICD-10-CM does provide definitions for three psychiatric conditions:

1] ICD-10-CM's PTSD definition:

"Preoccupation with traumatic events beyond normal experience; i.e., rape, personal assault, etc.; also recurring flashbacks of trauma symptoms including difficulty remembering, sleeping, or concentrating, and guilt feelings for surviving.

To code:

F43.10 PTSD, unspecified

F43.11 PTSD, acute

F43.12 PTSD, chronic

"Acute" and "chronic" are not defined.

2] Major Depressive Disorder:

"Mood disorder that produces depression may exhibit as sadness, low self-esteem, or guilt feelings; other manifestations may be withdrawal from friends and family and interrupt sleep."

3] Schizophrenia:

"Group of disorders with disturbances in thought [delusions, hallucinations, mood [blunted, flattened, inappropriate affect], sense of self; also bizarre, purposeless behavior, repetitious activity, or inactivity."

Not clear to me the status of these soft definitions, but certainly ICD-10-CM has an authoritativeness. If anyone has an experience using these definitions in legal situations, please let me know.

From NEMJ, 15 Sep 2016:

1] An editorial on hospitalists and the decline of comprehensive care is a reminder that we have been championing integration for decades, but specialization pulls against. The growing number of hospitalists represent another challenge to integration.

2] While the number of psychiatrists remains "flat," the number of nurses does not. Nurse graduations in 2003 was 77,000 and in 2013, 155,000.

Roger