

Ethical and Legal Implications of Medical Terminology

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Terminology

1. Introduction

- The use of medical terminology carries ethical and legal responsibilities.
- Accurate language protects patients and supports lawful, ethical practice.

2. Accuracy and Accountability

- Incorrect terms in records can lead to misdiagnosis or wrong treatment.
- Documentation is a legal record that may be used in court.

3. Confidentiality

- Patient information must be shared only with authorised parties.
- Breaching confidentiality can have legal and professional consequences.

4. Informed Communication

- Terminology should be translated into plain language for patients.
- This supports informed consent and respects patient autonomy.

5. Professional Standards

- Using approved abbreviations and terms reduces error and liability.
- Falsifying or altering records is unethical and unlawful.

6. Summary

- Medical terminology is bound by duties of accuracy and confidentiality.
- Ethical and legal use of language safeguards both patient and practitioner.