

Legal Framework in Healthcare

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1. Introduction

- The legal framework in healthcare is the body of laws, regulations, and standards governing medical practice.
- It defines the rights and duties of patients, providers, and institutions.

2. Sources of Health Law

- **Statutes:** laws passed by parliament, such as public health and professional acts.
- **Regulations:** detailed rules made by health authorities and councils.
- **Case law:** principles established through court decisions.

3. Professional Regulation

- Licensing and registration ensure only qualified persons practise.
- Professional councils set standards and discipline misconduct.

4. Key Legal Concepts

- **Negligence:** failure to provide the standard of care that causes patient harm.
- **Duty of care:** the legal obligation to act competently toward patients.
- **Liability:** legal responsibility for harm arising from one's actions.

5. Patient Protections

- Laws require informed consent, confidentiality, and safe practice.
- Mechanisms exist for complaints, compensation, and redress.

6. Summary

- The legal framework sets enforceable standards that protect patients and guide practice.
- Health workers must understand their legal duties to avoid liability.