

Professionalism and Ethical Conduct

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1. Introduction

- Professionalism is the consistent demonstration of values and behaviours expected of health workers.
- Ethical conduct ensures actions align with moral standards and codes of practice.

2. Core Attributes

- **Integrity:** honesty and consistency between values and actions.
- **Accountability:** taking responsibility for one's decisions and outcomes.
- **Respect:** treating patients and colleagues with dignity.
- **Competence:** maintaining knowledge and skills through learning.

3. Standards and Codes

- Professional councils publish codes of conduct that define acceptable behaviour.
- Breaches may lead to disciplinary action or loss of licence.

4. Professional Boundaries

- Maintaining appropriate relationships with patients and avoiding conflicts of interest.
- Protecting confidentiality and avoiding exploitation of trust.

5. Importance in Practice

- Professionalism builds public confidence in the health system.
- It supports teamwork, safety, and quality of care.

6. Summary

- Professionalism combines integrity, competence, and respect with adherence to codes.
- Ethical conduct safeguards patients and the reputation of the profession.