

Legal and Ethical Implications of Technology

Legal and Ethical Implications of Technology in Healthcare

1. Introduction

- Health technology includes electronic records, telemedicine, AI, and connected devices.
- Its growth raises new legal and ethical questions about privacy, safety, and responsibility.

2. Data Privacy and Security

- **Confidentiality:** electronic data must be protected from unauthorised access.
- Data protection laws require secure storage and lawful use of patient information.

3. Consent and Transparency

- Patients should be informed about how their data and digital tools are used.
- Consent must cover telehealth, data sharing, and automated decision support.

4. Liability and Accountability

- Determining responsibility when software or devices cause harm can be complex.
- Providers remain accountable for clinical decisions even when using technology.

5. Equity and Access

- Technology can widen or narrow gaps in access to care.
- The digital divide may disadvantage poorer or rural populations.

6. Summary

- Technology offers benefits but introduces privacy, consent, and liability concerns.
- Ethical and legal safeguards must keep pace with innovation to protect patients.