

AEMH PLENARY



St Martins Therme and Lodge 12 May 2022

Working Group on Hospital Doctors Ethics

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Working Group on Hospital Doctors Ethics

BACKGROUND

- ❖ Doctors have been confronted with ethical questions since the beginning of their existence
- ❖ Need for deontology rules has been made evident since Hippocrates has written the Oath
- ❖ Hippocrates' Oath remains, with some relatively recent additions, the ethical guideline for medical professionals until nowadays.
- ❖ Well known by all practitioners that several serious ethical problems occur in every doctor's professional life.

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CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

- Covid-19 pandemic, continuing wars and natural and human caused disasters have exacerbated these problems.
- All over the world, Hospital doctors had to deal with serious ethical and deontological problems never met before.
- In every country, committees on bioethics and medical deontology provide guidelines

Working Group on Hospital Doctors Ethics CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

- Committees, institutes and other advisory bodies have been created from governments, parliaments and even supranational organizations as the EU Commission and European Council, mainly to deal with the laws and regulations needed in the fields of medical, pharmaceutical and biological research and practice.
- The members of these advisory bodies are eminent scientists, academics and representatives of religious cults but not really practicing medical doctors, in most cases.

Working Group on Hospital Doctors Ethics CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

- ❑ Although the work of these bodies responds to important real needs of our societies, practicing specialist doctors are often confronted with unanswered problems, as they are the only ones who face them often in emergency conditions.
- ❑ The recent covid-19 pandemic, war and all other disasters have shown the growing importance of those problems for the specialized practitioners all over the world.

Working Group on Hospital Doctors Ethics PROBLEMS FACED BY PRACTITIONERS

❖ Problems are of several kinds:

❖ **Medical:**

- ❖ Treatment guidelines are sometimes based on doubtful data.
- ❖ Several recommendations are discordant and are quickly reversed (masks use, disinfection needed, quarantine time, vaccines side effects, diagnosis and treatment, etc....)

Working Group on Hospital Doctors Ethics PROBLEMS FACED BY PRACTITIONERS

❖ Administrative:

- ❖ Doctors' responsibility in case of lawsuits due to vaccine side effects.
- ❖ Working conditions, overtime remuneration, participation in decisions concerning vaccination programs and hospital management in the pandemic.

❖ Ethical:

- ❖ In conditions of shortage of therapeutic means, how to choose among patients. What priority to give to different patients suffering from different diseases, etc.

Working Group on Hospital Doctors Ethics AIMS - TARGETS

- Need for more detailed recording and reflection about issues concerning hospital doctors.
- Creation of a Working Group for Hospital Doctors' Ethics could be of interest for all practicing Hospital doctors.
- Contribution to specific guidelines in cooperation with other European NMOs to continuously emerging ethical issues could be a major task of this WG.

Working Group on Hospital Doctors Ethics

PROBLEMS FACED BY HOSPITAL DOCTORS AIMS - TASKS

The task of a WG on medical ethics is therefore to respond to such problems by:

- Creating a forum to debate problems of every hospital doctor and identify the most important and common to all.
- Examining each of these problems.
- Proposing to the AEMH Board guidelines and/or statements.
- Participation with other European NMOs to proposals of measures to be included in EU law or regulations drafts.

Working Group on Hospital Doctors Ethics CONCLUSION

- Creation of a WG on Hospital Doctors Ethics may be a real need and of paramount importance for all medical hospital doctors
- Call to the AEMH plenary to approve it and to all NMAs to support its work.
- Suggestions for enriching this effort are most welcome.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION