

# Law in healthcare 02

# Question no. 1

What is the purpose of the law in healthcare?

What is the purpose of the rules?

Road Signs

Roundabout	Road narrow...	Hump Bac...	Horse Riders	Height rest...	Falling Rocks	Slippery Ro...	Children C...	Sheep	Cattle	Cattle Grid	Steep hill d...	Steep hill u...
Danger place	Intersection	Intersectio...	Bend	Double bend	Two ways t...	Mobile bri...	Traffic Lights	Pedestrian ...	Road work	Back up	Give way	Crossing
Stop	Roundable	Cycle track	Pass this side	Direction t...	One way st...	No entry	No entry b...	No pedestr...	No vehicle...	No towed ...	No goods ...	Maximum ...
No cycling	No motor...	No horse...	No motor ...	No motor ...	No Overta...	No vehicle...	No U-turns	No articula...	No Stopping	No left turn	No right turn	Maximum ...
Maximum ...	Maximum ...	Maximum ...	Minimum ...	Maximum ...	National s...	Shared cycle	Segregated...	Segregated...	Entering 20...	Maximum ...	Speed Ca...	Unsuitable ...
Escape lane	Escape lane	SOS Point	No through...	Parking	No passing...	No parking	Speed limit	Heigh limit	Width limit	Weight limit	Priority ov...	Streetcar o...
Taxi status	Speed 30-z...	End speed ...	Pedestrian ...	Police	Hotel	Restaurant	Break dow...	P+R	Restroom	Fuel	Telephone	Recommen...
Nodal poin...	Motorway	End motor...	Populated ...	End popul...	Parking wit...	Number sign	Number si...	Exit	Direction t...	Board of a...		



# Social role?

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Create trust

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Level of organisation in society

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Achieve „justice“

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Achieve „equality“

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Protect the weak

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Serve as tool for economic transactions

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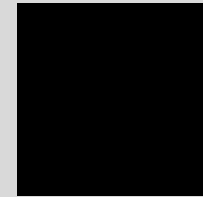
Protect investment

# Two main masses of Law

- PUBLIC LAW
  - Constitution
  - Hierarchy
  - Enforcement
  - Formal process



- PRIVATE LAW
  - Individual
  - Equality
  - Authonomy
  - Freedom

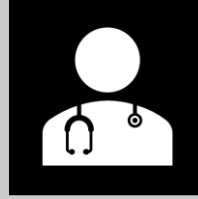




# The rights and obligations of citizens in health care

(from yesterday)

# Patient has rights:



As a citizen

to health protection.  
to free health care  
right to medical aids  
under conditions  
provided by law.  
(Charter of  
Fundamental Rights  
and Freedoms)



As a policyholder

to choose the health  
insurance company  
to time and the local  
accessibility and  
availability of paid  
services  
On medicinal product  
and foods for special  
medical purposes



As a patient

"Patients means a  
natural person, which  
are provided by the  
health services"

His rights correspond  
with obligations of  
healthcare provider  
and medical staff



Patients rights (what the group thinks)

# Rights of the patient (§28 HCA)

Right on the provision of health services at the appropriate professional level

- according to the rules of science and accepted medical practices,
- while respecting the individuality of the patient,
- with regard to the specific conditions and objective options.

to esteem, treated with dignity, to be treated with courtesy in accordance with the nature of health services,

respect for privacy during the provision of healthcare services

- in accordance with the nature of healthcare services,
- Related rules for the close persons, medical documentation, etc.

# Rights of the patient (§28 HCA)

to choose a provider authorized to provide healthcare services,

to seek consulting services from another provider or healthcare professional, other than that who provides health services;

to be informed about the internal rules of the healthcare facility inpatient or day care

# Rights of the patient (§28 HCA)

to be informed in advance about the cost of health services not covered by public health insurance,

to know the names and surnames of healthcare professionals directly involved in the provision of healthcare services

to reject the presence of persons who are not directly involved in the providing of healthcare services

- Including those preparing for the profession of healthcare professional,

# Rights of the patient (§28 HCA)

to receive visitors in a medical facility of inpatient or day care,

- with regard to their health
- in accordance with the internal rules
- in a manner which does not infringe the rights of other patients, unless HCA or another law provides otherwise

to receive the pastoral care and spiritual support from spiritual churches and religious communities

on provision of health services in the least restrictive environment while ensuring the quality and safety of healthcare services.

# Obligations of the patient (!)

- a) to follow a designed individualized treatment procedure
- b) to follow the internal rules,
- c) to pay the provider cost of health services provided to him with his consent
- d) truthfully inform healthcare professional about the development of health condition, including information on infectious diseases
- e) not to drink alcohol or use other addictive substances during hospitalization and undergo in justified cases examination in order to establish whether or not is the patient under the influence of alcohol or other addictive substances at the discretion of the attending physician

Refusal to provide  
healthcare services

# It is important to distinguish

## Rejecting by a Healthcare Professional

- Retention of conscience
- refusal to provide healthcare services to the patient if the disclosure would be contrary to conscience or religious beliefs of a healthcare professional

## Rejecting by a Healthcare Provider

- rejection of proof of identity
- exceeding the workload
- operational reasons
- not insured
  - Foreigners from the EU have a special regulation



# Termination of the healthcare (provider)

- transfer the patient to another healthcare provider
- There are no longer reasons for the provision of healthcare services; does not apply in the case of the registering provider
- patient refuse the provision of all healthcare services,
- patient severely restricts the rights of other patients
- deliberately and systematically fails to comply with the proposed individual medical procedure, if he gave his consent to the provision of health services,
- Does not follow internal rules
- does not cooperate;

Informed consent with medical  
performance; denial of  
medical care

# Distinguish

## **Informed consent**

- **Free of will**
- **Informed**

## **Information about health condition**

- notified upon admission to healthcare
- Always if it is purposeful
- The patient may waive

# Information about health condition

- about the disease,
- the purpose, nature, expected benefits, potential consequences and risks of the proposed health services
- other possibilities, their suitability and risks
- another needed treatment,
- restrictions and recommendations in the way of life with regard to health conditions
- options
  - To waive the right to be informed about health condition
  - identify the persons to whom the information may be given or to impose a ban on reporting on health condition according to § 33.

## Retention of health information,

- The information would cause serious injury to the patient.

## Does not apply if:

- **a)** there is a need for early treatment,
- **b)** risk for the surroundings,
- **c)** patient specifically asks for accurate and truthful information.

# Written form of a consent

- **Consent with hospitalization** must be in writing.
- Written form of a consent must be where it is required by law or a provider.
- Remember HCA, transplantation Act,

# Refusal to treatment



REVERS



WITHDRAWAL OF  
CONSENT



PREVIOUSLY  
EXPRESSED WISHES

## REVERS

- the patient is informed about his health condition and still refuses treatment
- makes a written declaration of refusal

## Withdrawal of consent

- Patient may withdraw his consent to the provision of healthcare services unless the medical procedure has already started and its termination may cause a serious injury to the patient.

## Record

- Written consent and written withdrawal of a consent or its record is a part of medical documentation
- It is signed by a patient and healthcare professional
- Patient may refuse to sign - healthcare professional and witness



# Previously expressed wishes

Patient may express agreement / disagreement in advance in certain cases

Provider takes into account the previously expressed wishes if

- it is available
- there was a predictable situation which previously expressed wish covers
- patient is unable to pronounce a new agreement or disagreement

Previously Expressed wishes will be respected

- If it was based on a written notice about the consequences of his decision.
- It must be in writing and shall bear an officially verified signature of the patient.
- If a written notice of the attending physician is a part of previously expressed wishes.

When it is  
not  
necessary to  
respect the  
previously  
expressed  
wishes?

# Underage patient

- it is necessary to know his opinion on the planned provision of health services if it is appropriate to his age and maturity.
- the importance of his opinion increases in proportion to age and degree of maturity.
- The intended health services can be provided to an underage patient on the basis of his consent if the execution of such procedure is appropriate to his mental and moral maturity and corresponds with his age.

# Hospitalization and provision of health services without consent

## Hospitalization

- condition of the patient requires the provision of urgent care and he is unable to give his consent at the same time

## Urgent care

- case of health services essential to saving lives or preventing serious damage to health.

## Based on a court decision

- such as protective measures imposed in criminal proceedings

# The patient can not give his consent

consent of the person designated by the patient

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graph TD; A[consent of the person designated by the patient] --> B[spouse or registered partner]; B --> C[parents]; C --> D[consent of other legally competent close person];
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spouse or registered partner

parents

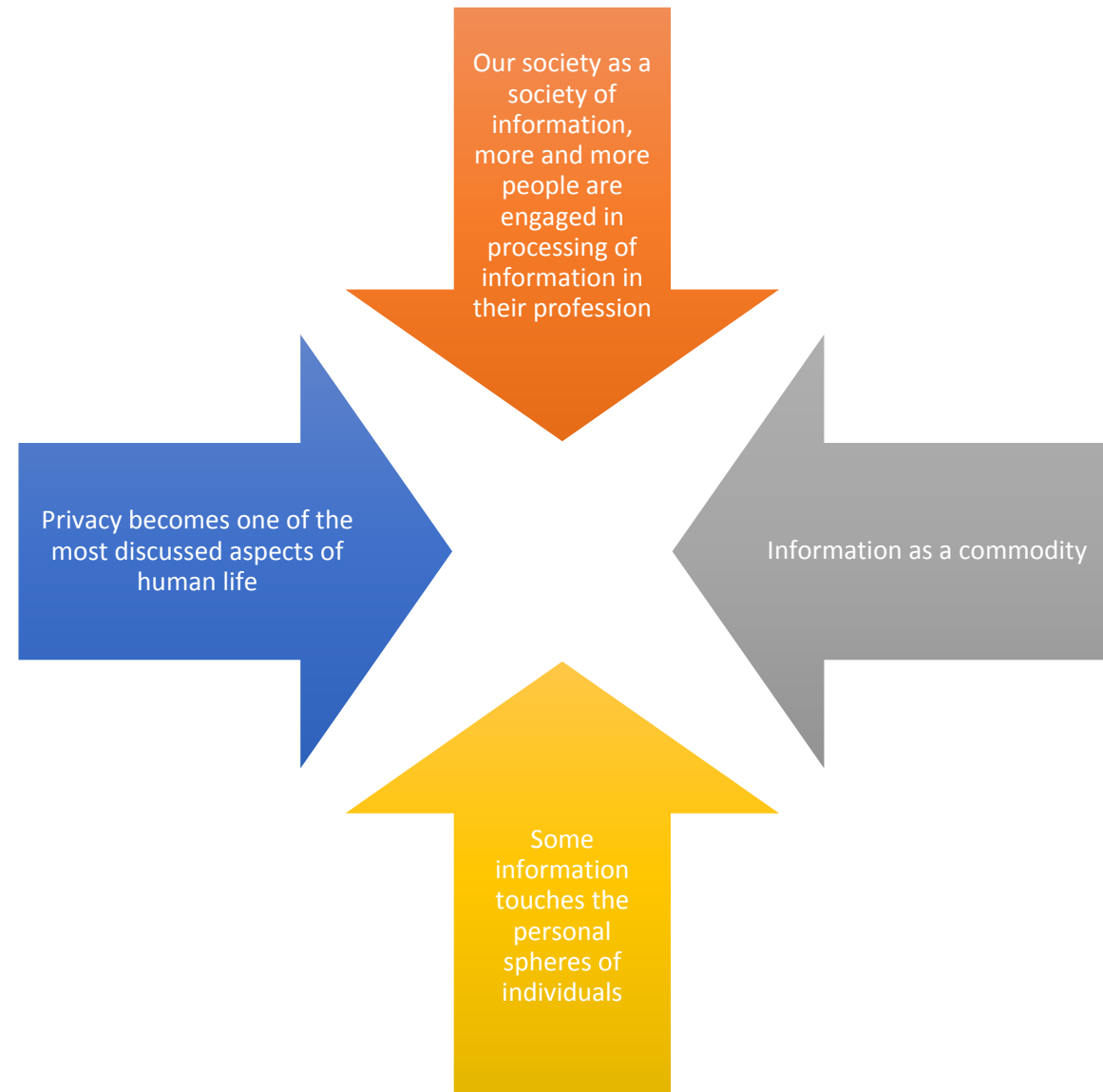
consent of other legally competent close person

I'M AFRAID DOCTOR-PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY PREVENTS ME FROM SAYING IF YOUR BROTHER CRIED LIKE A BABY DURING HIS FLU SHOT.



12-28  
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# Importance of information and privacy today



# The requirement of ethics

## Part of the Hippocratic oath

- I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world shall know.

Privacy is part of  
accentuated patient  
autonomy in modern  
bioethics.



## Special sensitivity of health information

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Many health information are sensitive (sexual life, mental state, alcohol and drug addiction, career and career goals)

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Some other information are generally less sensitive, especially if they can not be easily kept secret

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They may be sensitive to specific patients (with regard to employment, family, religion, etc.)

A row of classical marble columns on a tiled floor, with a blue circular graphic on the left containing text.

The legal  
concept of  
privacy

Charter of  
Fundamental  
Rights and  
Freedoms (Art.  
10)

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Everyone has the right to preserve his dignity, honor, reputation and protect his name.

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Everyone has the right to protection against unauthorized intrusion into private and family life.

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Everyone has the right to protection against unauthorized gathering, publication or other misuse of his personal data

# Privacy

The right not to be part of the public

- The right to "personal area"
- The right to withhold information about yourselves
- The right to decide if and how should be facts from personal privacy revealed to others
- United States: Right to be let alone

The right to privacy extends to every individual,

- regardless of age or legal capacity

# Personality

Life

Expressions of a personal nature

Dignity

Privacy

Honor

The right to live in a favorable environment

Health

# Specific regulations in healthcare

The patient has the right during the provision of healthcare services to:

- esteem, decent treatment, courtesy and respect for privacy during the provision of health services,
- reject the presence of persons who are not directly involved in providing of health services,
- know the names of healthcare professionals and students

# The rules of the Civil Code

No person shall intervene into the privacy of another, unless...

- Legal reason,
- Permission

Without permission you cannot:

- disrupt Private Spaces of a man,
- watch his private life,
- capture audio or video recording,
- use the images recorded about the private life of a person by a third party,
- spread such records of his private life.



# Protection of human appearance

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Capture a human appearance by any way, so that it is possible to determine his identity, is possible only with his permission.

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Spread human appearance is possible only with his permission.





How to  
obtain a  
consent

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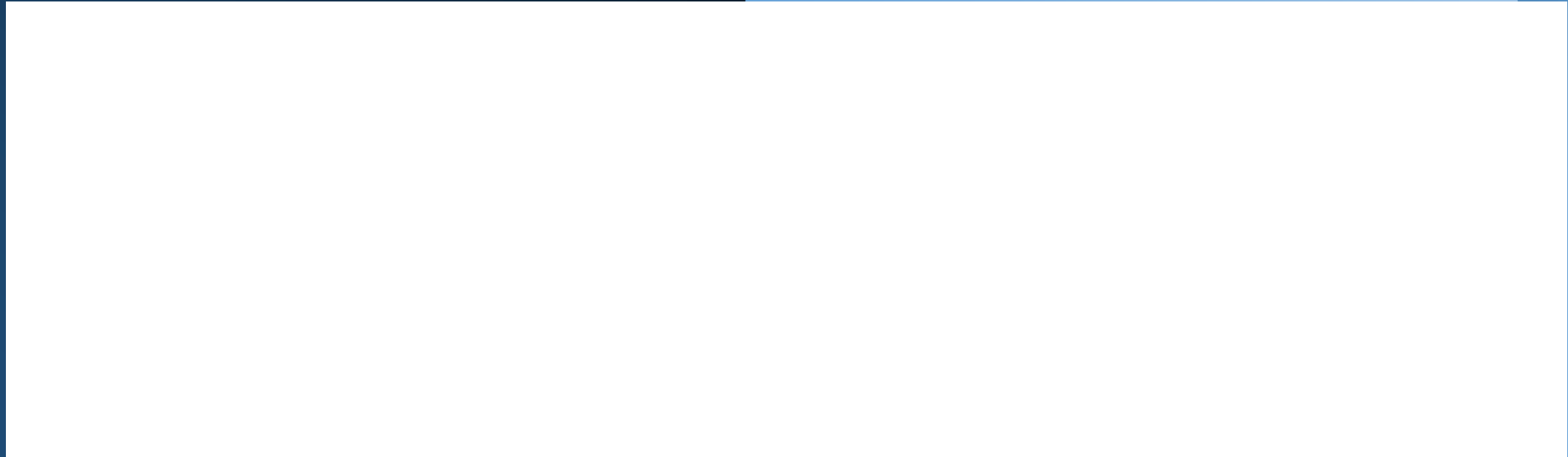
In Writing

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Orally

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Tacitly



(Medical secret)

# Privacy contra Confidentiality

## Privacy

- Protection from identifying and collecting personal data
- Protection against unauthorized access to information
- Protection from capturing photographs, recordings and records

## Confidentiality

- Preventing the spread of information to which the medic gained access
- Even if you obtained that information legally

# Law on Healthcare Services

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The Provider is obliged to maintain confidentiality **about all the facts** that he has learned in connection with the provision of health services

# Who is bound by the obligation of confidentiality ?

- Health workers and other professionals in connection with the exercise of their profession, including those who are no longer in employment, and information obtained in connection with the former exercise of the profession of healthcare professional
- Persons acquiring competence to pursue the profession of healthcare professional (aka students)

# “Medical secret”

From the perspective of the law :

- Confidentiality of a healthcare professional
- Confidentiality of a healthcare provider

Much, **MUCH(!)** higher standards of confidentiality than other professions

Break only in cases precisely defined by the Law

# Confidentiality conceived in very broad terms

- All facts with which healthcare professionals meets
  - Diagnosis
  - Medical procedure
  - Information about relatives (family history)
  - Any information regarding patient



Handling  
medical  
documentatio  
n



# Medical documentation

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What do you imagine under it?

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Writing doctor into papers?

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Is it really just a paperwork?

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It would be impossible to cure anyone rationally in practice without medical documentation!

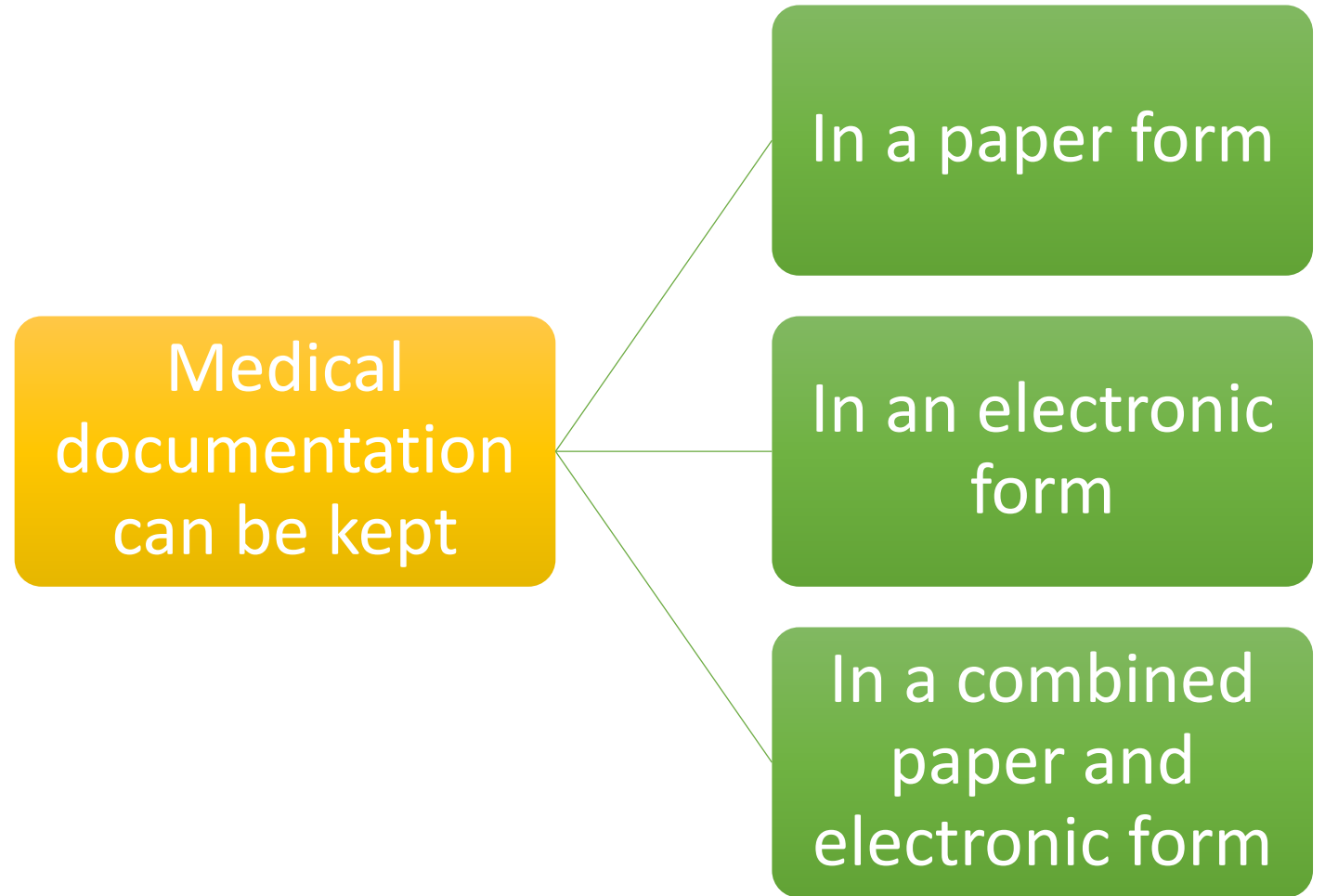
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Medical documentation contains a lot of confidential data and therefore deserve special protection and treatment!

The Provider is obliged to keep and store medical records and dispose of them according to this Act and other legal regulations. Health documentation is a set of information:

- Patient's identification data
- the sex of the patient
- identification data of the healthcare provider
- information on the patient's state of health
- data from the family, personal and occupational history of the patient, and (if justified) also from social history
- data relating to the death of the patient

# Maintenance of a medical records



# Medical documentatio n

- The law imposes to keep medical records conclusively truthfully and legibly! The information in it must be continuously and promptly updated
- Correction of an erroneous entry in the documentation is done by striking out with one line (the entry, even the erroneous one, must remain legible)
- It always must be clear who made which notation!



"HELLO, IS THIS THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE?... THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME ALL THAT INFORMATION, BUT MY NAME ISN'T AMBER AND I'M PRETTY SURE I'M NOT PREGNANT!"

Access to a  
medical  
documentatio  
n

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Healthcare professionals

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Patient

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Family, relatives, survivors

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Students

# Healthcare professionals

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persons with the legal capacity to practice the medical profession

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in direct connection with the provision of health services

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to the extent strictly necessary for the pursuit of the profession

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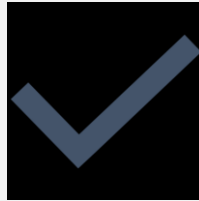
to perform tasks under HcAct or other legal regulations

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when assessing the correct procedure for providing health services



# Patient



In the presence of an employee authorized by the provider



The right to make copies or extracts

The Provider may charge the cost of making copies of the documentation (but cannot make any profit)

# Family, relatives, survivors of the deceased

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legal  
representative  
or guardian  
(minors),  
person  
specified by  
the patient,  
legal  
representative  
or guardian

Acts on behalf of the patient

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persons close  
to the  
deceased  
patient:

information on the state of health of the patient who died and information on the outcome of the autopsy if done, including the right to inspect the medical records kept about the deceased or other medical records relating to his / her state of health and to obtain extracts or copies thereof.

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**the deceased could forbid this access in advance**

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# Students and a medical documentation

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Persons preparing for the profession of a medical professional may inspect the medical documentation to the extent strictly necessary for teaching.

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The patient may prohibit access to his medical documentation to students.

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**NO COPIES AND EXTRACTS** (possible only with the express consent of the patient)

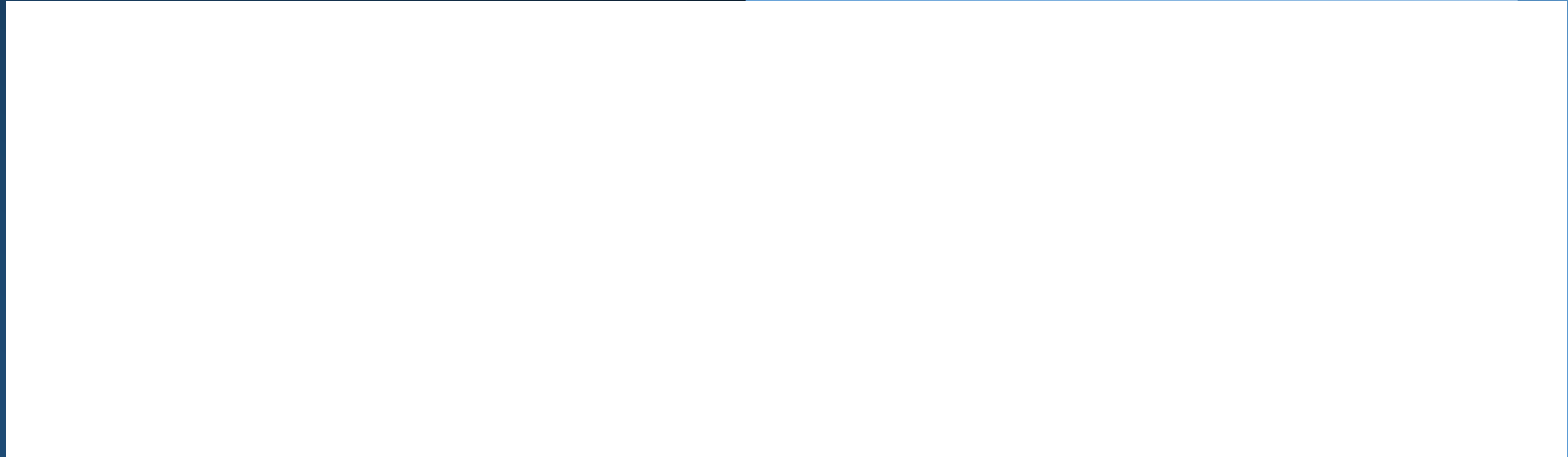
## Sanctions

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The Health Services Act imposes penalties for improper management of medical documentation.

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The unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the medical documentation is always a violation of the mandatory confidentiality



Information  
requests about  
the health status  
of a patient by  
persons other  
than the patient

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Family members

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Public authorities (for  
example, the Police of Czech  
Republic, courts, various  
administrations, etc.)

# Family of a patient

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Careful! Fully competent patient decides on the disclosure of information about his health condition by himself, even towards the family members of the patient (persons close).

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A patient may designate any person (even unrelated) who may receive information about his health and vice versa, without his consent it is not possible to disclose confidential information even to persons close to the patient.

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The exception is if the patient's condition requires that these people have to care about the patient, or it is necessary to protect their health.

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In a case of a patient who is not fully sui juris, the right to decide on disclosure of information about the health of this patient to third parties has fundamentally his legal representative or guardian (determined by a court).

# Disclosure of health information

- Information about health of a patient are being given by the attending medical personnel!
- Students of medical faculties do not give any information about health of patients to anyone, even family members of the patient!

When is it  
possible to  
breach a  
confidentiality  
?

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Consent of a patient

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Providing follow-up services

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Protection of your rights

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Communication of data for the purpose  
of criminal proceedings

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Fulfilling the duty to thwart or report the  
offense

# How to obtain a consent

## Explicit

- Oral
- In writing

## Tacitly



# Information on patients' health requested by public authorities

Compulsory confidentiality of healthcare professionals is required by law and has great social significance

- Remember the right to privacy

Public authorities, including the police and the courts, can require information about health of a patient only in cases determined by a law.

- For an example it is not enough that a policeman comes to the hospital and asks about the patient's health condition (typically at injuries caused by the other person).

# Obligation to notify

In certain cases there is the so-called notification obligation when everybody (not only a healthcare professional) has to notify the Police of the Czech Republic upon the fact that a crime of cruelty or wilful grievous bodily harm (a serious injury) was committed.

In certain cases of children patients it is necessary to inform the authority of social and legal protection of children.

- Such as underage drinking, abuse of addictive substances, or when there is suspicion that a crime endangering health or life, human dignity or moral development was committed on them.

At the hospital, however, this reporting obligation should be primarily met by the attending healthcare professionals, not students.

# Remember!

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Not everyone who cares about the health of the patient is entitled to this information!

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This also applies to family members of the patient and public authorities.

# Conclusion

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Students should not be providing information about the health status both to the patient and third parties (family members, public authorities and others).

**Sanctions for unauthorized  
breach of confidentiality**

# Criminal penalties

Penalties shall be given to who, even if negligently, violates the obligation of secrecy by unlawfully disclosing, communicating or making available to a third party personal data obtained in connection with the exercise of his profession, occupation or function, thereby causing serious harm to the rights or legitimate interests of the person

- Up to three years or a ban on activity
- If deliberately – up to 8 years

# Administrative sanctions

## Breach of the Provider's Obligations arising from HcAct

- A fine of up to CZK 1,000,000

## Breach of the Provider's Obligations under the Personal Data Protection Act

- According to GDPR - up to 4% of yearly turnover of a healthcare provider

# Private Law Penalties

## Labor-law sanctions

- Even the immediate termination of employment

## Exposure to the risk of bringing a lawsuit

- Compensation for non-material damage



# Disciplinary sanctions

Every citizen has the possibility to submit complaints to doctors at no cost to the CMC organs, at all times, **if he thinks that the physician was acting improperly or acting unethically.**

Fine up to CZK 30.000

Exclusion from the Czech Medical Chamber

- Actual ban on activity up to 5 years

Thank you for your  
attention