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Ethics 101 (Scenario 2)

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“The Case of Jacob and the Diseased Leg”

The case of Jacob and the diseased leg is a case about a boy that was a really good football player who was injured. He went in to have surgery on his leg and eventually a couple weeks later he developed a really serious infection, which was really bad and the doctor’s fault. After Jacob got the infection his parents then decided they wanted to sue.

Jacob had surgery on his leg that had a compound fracture he stayed in the hospital for 3-4 days and then was told to come back in 6 weeks. When Jacob came back the doctor only noticed slight inflammation when they took the cast off which was probably not too serious, but he would take a closer look in a little while as he said he would be back, he took off his gloves and washed his hands after examining Jacobs leg which was the right thing to do. He then went into another room and examined a girl who had an infection “osteomyelitis” he didn’t put any gloves on, and people saw him... even Jacobs parents across the hall. Once he got done with her, he went back into Jacobs room without washing his hands or without putting gloves on he then began to take a closer look at Jacobs leg and decided to prescribe him some medicine for the inflammation and told him to come back next week. When Jacob came back for the next visit, the doctor noticed that the leg was worse, so they took samples of the tissue and tested it when the results came back, he was told he had osteomyelitis a bone infection and had to undergo another surgery.

The most obvious mistake that Dr. M made was that he did not wash his hands after examining Sarah's leg and before entering Jacobs room. This mistake is serious it is very important to wash your hands before and after entering a patient's room to help keep the spread of infection to a minimal according to CDC. Not washing your hands can be illegal and it is very unethical because it can be medical malpractice (negligence). It is the medical professional's duty to make sure they are keeping the spread of any type of infection down. And also another mistake that I can think of is he did not close the door when examining Sarah, which is something else he should have done for privacy now everyone has seen Sarah and can see what is wrong with her. Dr. M can get in trouble for a HIPPA violation, because we are supposed close the door to give the patients as much privacy as possible. This whole situation could have been missed if he closed the door like he was supposed to, I'm not saying that he should have done that because now maybe he will learn his lesson but he should be more careful next time... if there is a next time if he doesn't get into big trouble. Both of these mistakes are examples of a tort since there are two categories that a tort can be filed under I would say this is an unintentional tort negligence and a breach in patient confidentiality.

While reading this ethical scenario I was thinking well why didn't anyone say anything when they noticed that Dr. M didn't wash his hands especially the parents, but then I realized it's not anyone's job to tell the doctor to wash their hands it is his responsibility we all learn that when going into the medical field that it is very important to wash your hands or sanitize. Being in the medical field that is our job and being professional we want to make sure we wash our hands when we are supposed to before and after each patient no matter if we got dirty or not because we never know what type of germs we got on our hands just from opening the door or something. We as healthcare workers also learn about HIPPA and patient privacy it is a big thing

we want to make sure we keep our patients information as private as we can we don't want anyone else knowing about other people.

With all that being said this case could have been prevented if Dr. M would have done what he was supposed to do which was to close the door when entering Sarah's room and making sure he washed his hands and wore different gloves for each patient. Now Dr. M is going to have to deal with a lawsuit because his patient Jacob now has a really serious infection, because of Dr. M's poor choices. It is always the healthcare professionals job to make sure we give the patient what we owe them it is there right to be treated right and not with any type of negligence.