

Imaging Scenario NO. 2: Student Competency

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Ethics 101

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November 17, 2022

The case of Jacob's and the Diseased Leg is about an outstanding athlete that has been offered a college scholarship when he graduates high school. Jacob suffered from an injury and fractured his fibula bone in his lower leg bone. Jacobs was required to have surgery and was responsible to come into the office once a week for six weeks. Jacob returned back to the hospital to remove his cast, and there was an area around his stitches that was inflamed. Jacob's doctor, Dr. M, decided to jump across the hall to another patient and told Jacob to wait a few minutes while his healing wound was open. Dr. M did not wear gloves or wash his hands properly while bouncing back and forth between patients. The surgeon left both exam room doors open and Jacob's parents could see and hear Dr. M. Dr. M examined the other patient's affected leg with osteomyelitis prior to returning to Jacob's room. A couple of weeks later, Dr. M was concerned about the inflammation. Jacob got tested and the surgeon ended up affecting Jacob with osteomyelitis. The infection took several months to heal. Thus, ending Jacob's athletic career and his chance to ever play colligate sports. Jacob's parents ended up suing Dr. M because of negligence.

The problem concerning Jacob's diseased leg is Dr. M's failure to replace his gloves while examining Sarah. Dr. M did not wash his hands before leaving Sarah's room and entering Jacob's room. Jacob's parents noticed for the reason that both exam room doors were left open. This action was a violation of HIPAA. HIPAA is required to protect patient health from being disclosed without patient consent or knowledge. Both patients were affected by Dr. M's actions. HIPAA was put into place to set boundaries and gives patients more privacy to protect their health rights. The best solution for the case is for the doctor to take the proper hand hygiene techniques and replace gloves. Proper hand-washing is the best way to control diseases and infections throughout the hospital. In addition, Jacob's parents could have contributed to the situation. Jacob's parents witnessed Dr. M's mistake following Sarah's visit. His parents could have stopped this from happening, however, it is ultimately the doctor's fault. The best option for this ethical scenario is for the doctor to take the right actions and prevent the spread of infections and close the doors to all patient rooms. In the end, Jacob's parents had every right to sue.

Medical negligence happens when a physician fails to perform quality care to his/her patient which causes harm. This case highlights medical negligence. Overall, Dr. M's actions led to unintentional tort of negligence and malpractice. The doctor's actions put an end to Jacob's football career, and his chance to play at the collegiate level. In healthcare, things can become hectic, however, it is our responsibility as healthcare providers to be more considerate of the patients, and no matter what, the patient comes first. We are required to give high-quality care to our patients in their best interests.