

Imaging Scenario: Student Comprehensive Evaluation
The Case of Jacob and the Diseased Leg NO. 2
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Jacob's dream was to get a scholarship to play college football, but sadly broke his lower leg during summer practice before senior year began. Jacob had to get surgery due to his severe fracture. He seemed to have been getting better and there could be a potential he could play football in the fall. Sadly, that was not the case nor was it possible due to an infection he got during his visit to the doctor.

At 6 weeks Jacob made a visit to Dr. M. to get his cast removed and inspect a slightly inflamed and drained area around his stitches. The scenario mentioned that Dr. M. left Jacob for a moment to check on a different patient (Sarah) but left both patients' doors open and there was no privacy for either of the patients. Therefore, both patients could see and hear everything that was going on from across the hall. Dr. M. practiced good hygiene before leaving Jacobs room and moving on to examine Sarah by removing his gloves and washing his hands after visiting with Jacob. Although, forgot to put on new gloves and wash his hands after Sarahs checkup and continuing back with Jacob's checkup. Dr. M. could have prevented being sued by giving each patient privacy to their doors being shut closed so no one walking by or across the hall could hear or see. Dr. M should have also put on new gloves to examine Sarah and washed his hands before moving on to the next patient. This way the patient's confidentiality is obtained and there is no contamination from one patient to the next. I do feel like Jacobs parents could have asked the doctor to wash his hands and put on new gloves before continuing with the exam. Overall, it is the physician's obligation to care for their patients and do the best for their health.

This would be a case with intentional torts because Dr. M. should know that before proceeding surgical operations or examinations, physicians are required to cleanse their hands and change gloves. The failure to discharge this obligation is termed a tortious liability that attracts judicial intervention, awarding damages. Medical asepsis is the process of reducing pathogens in the environment and intervening in the process of how microorganisms are spread. The physician here has conducted an illegal act, and a civil case, as the healthcare practitioner has deprived Jacob of the right to receive efficient medical attention. In this case there exists negligence with moral and ethical wrong healthcare practices. It is illegal to harm patients in any way because of negligence or reckless attitude.

The principal objective of the profession is to provide services to humanity with full respect for the dignity of mankind. Dr. M. did not respect the patient's right to the privacy of either patient by leaving both doors open. The physician assesses situations; exercises care, discretion, and judgment; assumes responsibility for professional decisions; and acts in the best interest of the patient. In this case he did not act in the best interests of the patient by not using proper hand hygiene or gloves. Negligence is the failure to perform professional duties to an accepted standard of care. He contaminated his patient by touching him without the use of gloves. Based on the rules of ethics he failed to perform with reasonable skill and safety and engaged in unprofessional conduct.

I do feel like Dr. M. is at fault and should assume the consequences for his actions. This scenario could have been avoided by the doctor taking a few minutes to wash his hands and use gloves to protect his patient's health. When you go into a medical profession it is engraved in your brain to protect your patients by always using proper hand hygiene. There is no exception for Dr. M. This scenario mentioned malpractice and lack of confidentiality for both patients.

