

Imaging Scenario: Student Comprehensive Evaluation  
The case of Jacob and the Diseased Leg #2  
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The case of Jacob and the Diseased Leg is about an outstanding quarterback in high school who has been offered a college scholarship. Unfortunately, he fractured his leg during summer practice. Jacob's fracture was described as a compound fracture of the fibula bone that broke through his skin. Due to the extensive fracture Jacob had to have surgery to align the bone and close the skin. His surgeon Dr. M was negligent in Jacob's care because he spread a serious bone infection known as osteomyelitis to Jacob from an infected patient. Dr. M's failure in practicing proper hand hygiene caused cross contamination between his patients'. Jacob and his parents could have prevented Dr. M from coming in contact with his leg since they were able to hear and see that Dr. M did not perform proper hand hygiene between him and the infected patient known as Sarah K. Jacob and his parents should have addressed Dr. M in a kindly manner in regard to his failure of proper hand hygiene. Dr. M should have ensured he was providing excellent patient care which would have prevented Jacob from contracting osteomyelitis.

The problem in this case was negligence and breach of patient confidentiality. Dr. K failed to provide privacy between his patient's which exposed his patient Sarah K to Jacob and his parents hearing Dr. K talk about her osteomyelitis. A healthcare providers failure to provide reasonable care is therefore known as negligence and a breach of patient confidentiality. In this case negligence could have been prevented if Dr. K would have practiced proper hand hygiene between his patients'. A breach of patient confidentiality could have been avoided if Dr. K would have shut the doors to his patient's rooms. The best solution for Dr. K would have been to wash his hands in between his patient's, make sure he was wearing gloves with every patient, and have been more cautious of his surroundings. If proper hand hygiene and privacy of patient's would

have been practiced Jacob wouldn't have developed osteomyelitis and Dr. K would not be getting sued for negligence.

Health care providers have a duty to ensure that they are providing exceptional patient care which means that they must follow guidelines. If patient care is not practiced efficiently liability may be imposed. The actions performed by Dr. K were not intended to do harm, which results in unintentional torts. Unintentional torts result from actions that were not intended to do harm, but it did harm the patient. In cases of negligence and breach of patient confidentiality a lawyer may use the practice standards to establish if the standards of patient care were met. Legal obligations would then be taken if the lawyer is able to provide sufficient evidence of negligence and breach of patient confidentiality.

As healthcare professionals we are expected to provide excellent patient care. Failure in doing so affects patient's, institutions, and the healthcare field overall. In our code of ethics number three states that we deliver patient care unrestricted by the nature of the disease or illness. Also, number five in our code of ethics it states that we act in the best interest of the patient. Our code of ethics applies to this given scenario by making sure that we practice quality patient care. The professional issues in this case were that the standards that we as medical professionals hold for patient care were not met. Unfortunately, due to failure in proper patient care this case resulted in negligence and a breach in patient confidentiality. If Sarah K were to become aware that Jacob and his parents heard about her osteomyelitis, she too could have sued Dr. K. Professionalism is crucial and should always be practiced in the healthcare field especially to avoid a mistake like this when it could have easily been avoided by simply practicing quality patient care.