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PATIENT'S RIGHT TO CONFIDENTIALITY

Patient's Confidentiality is one of the most important pillars of medical profession. Protecting the private details of the patient is not just a matter of moral aspect, it is essential in retaining the important bond of trust between the doctor and the patient.

This often proves vital in treating ill patients and without it patient would be hesitant and reluctant about revealing their personal information. As such a disclosure may effect their reputation, social life, job or personal life. In Western Countries, this important principle is practiced. The patients are asked for their information to be shared or the details are properly anonymised in any research or analysis put into the public domain.

If there is any breach in their confidentiality the patient can sue the doctor or any other health worker and even their license to practice medicine may be cancelled. As they did in Allina Hospital and clinic in USA. They fired 32 doctors who went through the records of the patients though they were not treating them. It was just because of curiosity. But unfortunately, In Pakistan the situation is quite different.

In general practice the code of conduct and ethics of medical practice are not practically observed. Doctors and paramedical staff discuss their patient's condition openly with their fellow doctors in clinics, cafeteria or elsewhere, forgetting the fact that they are disclosing their

patients secret publically. In this way the patient's right of confidentiality is badly ruined. PMDC and the health ministry of Pakistan should focus on this matter. So that this un ethical behavior is condemned.