

Ethical codes of non-medical health professions focusing on ambulance service workers

ABSTRACT

A sharp increase of number of the codes of ethics in all fields of human activity is the trend of current ethical education.

The dissertation is oriented (focuses) on the question of the necessity or the suitability of codes of ethics for ambulance services (Emergency Ambulance Services and Non-emergency patient transport services).

The introductory theoretical part defines the range of medical transport professions that are the subjects of research. There are introduced the theoretical bases of healthcare professions. The historical part of the dissertation is focused on the development of a medical transport with an emphasis on ethical principles in the work of emergency and non-emergency ambulance services. The theory that the direct precursors of code of ethics can be promises, oaths, orders, statutes, instructions, recommendations and similar written or unwritten documents containing ethical principles that include challenges to help others and the demands of collegiality, respect, honesty or virtuous life was confirmed. In the work is also mentioned some ethical problems and dilemmas in the work in the ambulance services.

The content of the practical part of dissertation is research study on the question of the suitability or necessity of codes of ethics for ambulance services. An analysis of the websites of health centres with ambulance services provided an overview of the occurrences of publicly available codes of ethics

An overview of the incidences of profession code of ethics, employee code of ethics and a code of ethics for patients is elaborated. As a result is, there is no publicly available codes of ethics for ambulance services in Czech republic. This result was confirmed by the questionnaire survey, which was the second part of the research. In qualitative research the respondents (mostly executives) stated that the general code of ethics is a necessary document for ambulance services, while a special profession code of ethics is suitable for emergency ambulance services.

As a contribution to the possible creation of codes of ethics for individual segments of ambulance services the basic features of existing codes of ethics that are applied abroad are given.

KEY WORDS: ambulance service, code of ethics, code of conduct, emergency ambulance service, non-emergency patient transport service, history of the ambulance services

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