

MEDICO-LEGAL ETHICAL ISSUES IN SPORTS MEDICINE

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Ethical conflicts arise from the medical clinicians' position within the sports medicine hierarchy. One needs to question why the ethics of sports medicine is different than the ethics of public health. The traditional clinician patient relationship which holds confidentiality and patient best interests as central concerns may be compromised by the unique structure in sports medicine, particularly at the elite level. Sports medicine at the elite level such as premier league football occurs within a complex setting that may include the pressure of the large amount of money involved. This may impose pressure on the medical clinicians by the coaches, management, the media and sponsors. The medico-legal implications and the possible resultant effect on Medical ethics in this environment, are unique and of paramount importance. This presentation will be addressing the medico-legal issues in all Sports medicine, including confidentiality, consent, conflict of interest and medico-legal records, bearing in mind that the medical ethical duty is always to the athlete specific, pertinent case studies will be included.

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