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Measuring Medical Professionalism



Synopsis

Patients who are confident of physicians' intellectual and technical abilities are sometimes not convinced of their professional behavior. Systemic and anecdotal cases of physician misconduct, conflict of interest, and self-interest abound. Many have even come to mistrust physicians as patient advocates. How can patients trust the intellectual and technical aspects of medical care, but not the professional? In order to enhance and promote professionalism in medicine, one should expect it, encourage it, and evaluate it. By measuring their own professional behavior, physicians can provide the kind of transparency with which they can regain the trust of patients and society. Not only patients, but also institutions which accredit organizations have demanded accountability of physicians in their professional behavior. While there has been much lament and a few strong proposals for improving professionalism, no single reliable and valid measure of the success of these proposals exists. This book is a theory-to-practice text focused on ways to evaluate professional behavior written by leaders in the field of medical education and assessment.

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Customer Reviews

"The excellent introduction by the editor, David Stern, provides a working framework. The main body of the book comprises chapters, all by US authors, which together represent an authoritative overview of the current state of the art and, incidentally, show just how seriously the Americans are taking the conceptual and methodological challenges."--British Medical Journal
"This book on the multifaceted problem of measuring medical professionalism is interesting and valuable. It has

something for any reader seeking to understand whether, why, or how professionalism in medicine might be evaluated."--New England Journal of Medicine" This is an essential read for any health educator. It is a well-balanced perspective with excellent consideration of the benefits and drawbacks of a variety of methods currently used to evaluate professionalism in medical and health education. Educators recognize that this is one of the most challenging areas to develop and assess with our students. Yet we intuitively know that professionalism is also one of the most important qualities needed for optimal patient care and safety."--Doody's

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