



World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki

Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects

A 18 A A J 1964; 29 A A
 J 1975; 35 A A 1983; 41 A A
 1989; 48 A A A 1996, 52 A
 A 2000

A. Introduction

1. The primary purpose of all medical research involving human subjects is to establish the safety and efficacy of interventions that will be used in the care of patients. The benefits, risks, and burdens to be imposed on the subjects of research must be weighed against the anticipated benefits to the subjects and to society. The benefits, risks, and burdens must be justified in relation to the scientific, medical, and societal goals of the research.
 2. The fundamental principle is that the interests of the human subjects of research must prevail over the interests of science and society. The rights of individual human subjects must not be overridden by the demands of biomedical or societal objectives.
 3. The principles of medical ethics that relate to the health care of individual patients, and the responsibilities of health care providers, must guide all medical research involving human subjects. The Declaration of Helsinki is a statement of these principles, and it is the responsibility of all those who engage in medical research to ensure that the principles are fully understood and applied.
 4. The Declaration of Helsinki is a statement of the ethical principles that should govern all medical research involving human subjects. It is not a code of law, and it does not create legal obligations. It is a statement of the ethical principles that should guide all those who engage in medical research involving human subjects.
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