

LEGAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF HOSPITAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PATIENT SAFETY

Gunawan Widjaja

Senior Lecturer Faculty of Law Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Jakarta
widjaja_gunawan@yahoo.com

Hotmaria Hertawaty Sijabat

Doctoral Student Faculty of Law Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Jakarta
sijabathotmaria@gmail.com

Abstract

Legal and ethical aspects play an important role in a hospital's responsibility for patient safety. Hospitals are required to comply with various laws and regulations that guarantee quality medical service standards, including the Health Act and health accreditation standards. Compliance with these regulations reduces the risk of medical errors and ensures a safe and effective care environment. In addition, ethical aspects require hospitals and medical personnel to apply moral principles such as beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and justice, which promote the welfare, rights, and justice of patients. By combining the fulfilment of legal obligations and ethical principles, hospitals can increase patient trust, prevent malpractice, and ensure the overall safety and well-being of patients.

Keywords: Legal Aspects, Ethics, Responsibility, Hospital, Patient Safety.

Introduction

Patient safety is one of the most important aspects of quality health care. Patient safety is an effort to avoid unnecessary injury or harm and to prevent or reduce the risks and unwanted effects of health care interventions. This includes various activities and operational standards in hospitals that aim to improve the quality of health services with a main focus on preventing medical errors, infections, and complications that can worsen the patient's condition (World Health Organization, 2009). Patient safety is the shared responsibility of all members of the medical team and hospital management, who must be committed to creating a safe healthcare environment through the implementation of evidence-based clinical practices and the continuous evaluation and improvement of existing service systems (Lopez, 2020).

Patient safety in healthcare aims to ensure that patients receive effective care without the risk of unnecessary injury or complications. When patient safety comes first, the quality of care improves significantly, reducing the incidence of medical errors, nosocomial infections, and adverse events. Measures to improve patient safety, such as infection prevention policies, proper medication management, and protocols for performing surgical procedures safely, must continue to be implemented. This not only