Plenary: Key terms in ethical practice answers

| **Key term** |  | **Description** |  | **Example** |
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| Beneficence |  | To do good – taking decisions to produce the best outcome. |  | Following the course of action that is in the best interests of the patient. |
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| Nonmaleficence |  | To do no harm. |  | Ensuring an action doesn’t cause overall harm. |
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| Autonomy |  | The capacity to use knowledge and judgement to make decisions and take action. |  | A patient making the final decision about any care or treatment they receive, even if this is against a doctor’s opinion. |
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| Informed consent |  | Giving permission when provided with all the relevant information. |  | Taking part in clinical trials for a new drug, in the full knowledge of the possible health benefits and risks. |
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| Confidentiality |  | Not sharing information without express permission. |  | Personal information shared between a patient and healthcare practitioner must be kept private between the individual, the practitioner and the organisation they work for (e.g. NHS). |
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| Truthfulness  |  | The obligation to always tell the truth. |  | Outcomes of a research study should be reported honestly, even if they do not provide the hoped-for outcomes. |
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| Justice |  | Fairness, equality and respect for all. |  | Job applicants must be treated on merit, without reference to, e.g., gender or social background. |