

# Sen's Learn-About-Medicine

## FREE Resource List No.1

The prospect of being asked how to make decisions in medical interviews, based on ethical knowledge and logic is quite intimidating. When doctors make decisions about patient management it involves a combination of clinical acumen (expertise), patient centred care and ethical considerations.

A few considerations doctors may have when looking after patients:

- Treat the patient, not just the disease
- Treat patients as individuals, whilst also considering fair treatment to wider society and the National Health Service (UK)
- Act in the patient's best interests
- Gain consent and ensure the patient takes well-informed decisions where possible
- Continuity of care is key; looking out for patients in the long term, to improve health and reduce future admissions

To understand the duties of doctors, the NHS and learn more about how medical ethics influences doctors' decision making, look at the following fantastic resources.

### 1. Roles and Duties of a Doctor

Below are two documents written by the GMC (General Medical Council), a UK organisation which sets the standard that all care and medical education for students and doctors must meet. They're also responsible for investigating situations where care standards are not met and have power to 'strike off' medical students and doctors.

Thus, their resources on the duties of care and expectations of good medical practice are fantastic. I strongly suggest you take a few weeks to read through these two documents, to fully understand what the GMC is looking for.

**GMC Outcome for Graduates (outlines what you should develop during medical school):**

[https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/outcomes-for-graduates-2020\\_pdf-84622587.pdf](https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/outcomes-for-graduates-2020_pdf-84622587.pdf)

**GMC Good Medical Practice (duties of a doctor):** [https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/good-medical-practice---english-20200128\\_pdf-51527435.pdf?la=en&hash=DA1263358CCA88F298785FE2BD7610EB4EE9A530](https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/good-medical-practice---english-20200128_pdf-51527435.pdf?la=en&hash=DA1263358CCA88F298785FE2BD7610EB4EE9A530)

### 2. NHS (National Health Service, UK)

If you are a medical student looking to eventually work in the United Kingdom, it is likely you will spend at least some time working for the NHS. The NHS is the UK's taxpayer funded

public healthcare service, that provides free healthcare upon delivery to everyone regardless of background, socio-economic status and beliefs. It is important to understand that it is not completely free, as citizens contribute to the NHS and consequently their healthcare, indirectly through taxes.

Understanding how the NHS works is important for any medical student applying to medicine. Understand its history, administrative structure, hospital/care network and training pathways.

**King's Fund on NHS structure and function:**

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/how-does-nhs-in-england-work>

**Nuffield Trust on NHS History:**

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/health-and-social-care-explained/the-history-of-the-nhs/>

### 3. Medical Ethics

Any aspiring medical student will know how important medical ethics are. So cutting to the chase, here are a few brilliant links to resources.

**BMA Ethics Toolkit (15 brilliant topics covered):**

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/ethics/medical-students/ethics-toolkit-for-medical-students>

**Ethical Decision Making Framework outlined by Santa Clara University (USA) :**

<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/a-framework-for-ethical-decision-making/>

To conclude, here's a nice phrase I tell mentees that'll practically guarantee your success at interview:

*“The more you know about, understand and appreciate doctors’ work in a healthcare setting, the more convincing you will be at interview. ”*