

Doctor's Mission

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Abstract

Doctor's Mission is an important concept of medicine, and an important management concept. Mission is defined as the first modern management task. This author, through serious thinking for years, held that, Doctor's Mission is to cure the sickness to save the patient, specifically speaking, cure the sickness to save the patient, conduct clinical medicine education and medical science research, in total three aspects and three levels. According to mission's concept, doctors are divided into four kinds, namely, clinical, teaching, scientific research and omnipotent. This discussion intended to promote researches on mission by all types of doctors, hospital departments and hospitals and make it more operational sense of mission. [Life Science Journal. 2009; 6(3): 86 – 88] (ISSN: 1097 – 8135)

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What is the Doctor's Mission? This is an issue worth seriously considering and studying. Doctor's Mission refers to the fundamental reason for the existence of doctors, also means major responsibilities the doctors assume. For thousands of years, in terms of Doctor's Mission there were a lot of descriptions, such as "health guard", "angel in white", "heal the wounded and rescue the dying, practice medicine in order to help the people" and so on, but we have not yet found an accurate definition. Through careful and long-term thinking, this author held: Doctor's Mission is to cure the sickness to save the patient. This is a summary of Doctor's Mission, which consists of three aspects and three levels, namely, medical science research, medical education and diagnosis and treatment of patient. In accordance with the definition of Doctor's Mission, doctors can be divided into four types, namely: clinical, teaching, scientific research and omnipotent.

Doctor's Mission and significance

Modern Chinese Dictionary reads: "[Doctors] have knowledge of medicine, and take treating patients as career." [Mission] means order, and important responsibility". According to definitions of doctor and mission, together with this author's thinking, Doctor's Mission should be defined as "cure the sickness to save the patient". The so-called curing the sickness to save the patient means diagnosis and treatment of patients' diseases, saving the patients. The existence of the value of each doctor, the purpose of each patient to see a doctor in a hospital, the objective of each medical college to train doctors, aim at diagnosis and treatment of diseases and save patients. Doctor's Mission does not lie in protection of human health, or provision of disease prevention. This is because health of people is affected by social, psychological, genetic quality, living habits and cultural quality. It is just a goal. Nobody can guarantee health. Health is a long-term practice and the result of many

factors. Prevention of disease is another school, namely, within research scope of prevention medicine, instead of that of doctors. Doctors can provide some knowledge of disease prevention, but do not have such a mission.

The definition of Doctor's Mission is of medical, social, economic, legal and ethical significance. In term of medical significance, it plays an important role in medical education, doctor training and medical practices and hospital management. Doctor's Mission is the highest standard for medical education. Correct grasping the doctor's sacred mission, using Doctor's Mission to guide medical education and medical students, making it a guide for medical education and medical students, will surely improve medical education purposes and diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Therefore, Doctor's Mission is of great significance for doctors' improvement in capacities. In order to become good doctors, young doctors must first improve their capacity "to cure the sickness to save the patient", which is the direction and guide to actions. Doctor's Mission has the following significance in medical behaviors and hospital management: to begin with, Doctor's Mission plays a role of standardizing medical behaviors and measuring medical quality standards. Doctors' behavior and performance appraisal must focus on "curing the sickness to save the patient", to which, all other standards, whether political, economic or religious, must be subordinated to. On the other hand, Doctor's Mission determines the mission of hospitals and other medical institutions. In fact, Doctor's Mission lies in that the mission of medical institutions are to be achieved and completed by doctors instead of their managers and supporting personnel. Last but not the least, Doctor's Mission specifies the direction for medical institutions to strengthen management and improve the medical standard. Management activities of medical institutions must focus on Doctor's Mission. The improvement of capacities of doctors to cure the sickness to save the patient will surely improve the medical standard. Therefore, hospitals must have their management focus on curing the sickness to

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save the patient.

In terms of its social significance, Doctor's Mission theory formation can guide the people to have a correct understanding of doctor-patient relationship, reduce doctor-patient conflicts, and promote doctor-patient relationship with doctors' dedication to mission and broad masses of the people respecting doctors. Doctor's Mission determines the right doctor-patient relationship, namely, doctors carefully cure the sickness to save the patient, patients and their families respect doctors for their hard work to complete their mission. Doctor-patient relationship is an important social relation, the right doctor-patient relationship must be conducive to the promotion of a harmonious society. Especially at present, correct understanding of Doctor's Mission is of practical significance to correctly handle the more complicated doctor-patient contradictions and doctor-patient relationship and form a harmonious and stable doctor-patient relationship.

In terms of its economic significance, since it is a cause to cure the sickness to save the patient, it can effectively protect human resources, play the role of protecting productivity, promoting and safeguarding national economic sustainable development. With the economic development and the arrival of aging, it is more important and urgent to improve the capacity to cure the sickness to save the patient and to protect the important factors of production of human development and adequate quality of human resources.

In terms of its legal significance, it should be an important yardstick to judge whether legislative principles and medical behaviors to formulate health-related laws are correct. Whether doctors cure the sickness to save the patient should be the basic standard to judge whether they are legal, correct or wrong. If doctors' behaviors are to fulfill their sacred mission, they should be protected by law, and otherwise they should not be protected by law. Behaviors no to cure the sickness to save the patient and cause any losses to the patient should be severely punished by law.

In terms of its ethical connotations, Doctor's Mission should be taken as the highest standard for doctors' ethics and the supreme goal for medical ethic assessment. The doctor's ethical and moral standard mean the highest ethical standard, aiming at curing the sickness to save the patient and should be taken as the most sacred ethics in human history since doctors assume the sacred mission to cure the sickness to save the patient.

Doctor's Mission has three connotations

Doctor's Mission consists of three connotations. The first is diagnosis and treatment of patients, referring to the medical behaviors doctors must have, namely, diagnosis and treatment activities for each patient. Through the diagnosis and treatment of each patient to realize their sacred mission of "cure the sickness to save the patient", which is the basic capacity that every doctor must possess. Without such capacity, a doctor could not be called doctor,

and cannot become a legal practitioner. This is the first connotation of Doctor's Mission.

The second refers to that the doctors are engaged in treatment, and clinical medicine education. They complete the diagnosis and treatment mission and training of new doctors to conduct diagnosis and treatment, increase in the number of doctors and improvement of the quality and heritage from generation to generation. The clinical medicine education includes clinical medicine education with record of formal schooling, nurturing and training of younger doctors and in-service doctors. This is the second connotation of Doctor's Mission.

The third refers to that doctors are engaged in diagnosis and treatment and at the same time engaged in medical science research. This is a medical science and technology innovation activity, with its new theory, new technology, new discovery and new product benefiting a number of patients or a category of patients, and numerous patients in the world. This is the third connotation of Doctor's Mission.

Doctor's Mission has three levels

Doctor's Mission can be divided into three levels. The first level is the diagnosis and treatment, and clinical work, which are the doctor's basic mission. Every doctor needs to complete legal practice procedures in order to be engaged in lawful medical activities. If a doctor is unable to conduct diagnosis and treatment, he/she will not be regarded as a doctor. A doctor is surely to be able to conduct diagnosis and treatment, and achieve the capacity to implement the basic mission. However, in terms of different professions and different levels, doctors have different missions. The missions of department of cardiology and cardiovascular surgery are different because they conduct different diagnosis and treatment of different diseases, rescue different patients. It is necessary to carefully define each Doctor's Mission, which is very important and not easy. In fact, it is important for any institution to define the mission of each and every member, which is a very critical basis for management.

The second level is clinical medicine teaching. In addition to diagnosis and treatment, doctors take advantage of their medical expertise and professional skills to cultivate more and better new doctors through clinical medicine teaching, so as to provide more diagnosis and treatment, make more doctors cure the sickness to save the patient, fulfill the sacred mission. This should be a higher level mission.

The third level is the medical science research, which is the highest level of Doctor's Mission, since the results of medical research institutes make more patients, even one or several categories of patients receive diagnosis and treatment. Such medical scientific research activities often solve serious problems or complex diseases. The consequent cutting-edge theory, technology, methods and products make the greatest contributions to diagnosis and treatment. Therefore, it is the highest level of mission.

Categories of doctors according to Doctor's Mission

According to Doctor's Mission, doctors can be divided into four categories, namely, clinical, teaching, scientific research and omnipotent.

Clinical doctor

The clinical doctor is mainly engaged in diagnosis and treatment, working in the first line. In China, the majority of doctors working at hospitals at city level or below belong to this category. They work hard in the first line, playing a major role in people's basic medical insurance. What we call "general doctor", "community doctor", "barefooted doctor" are mostly clinical doctors. Clinical doctors occupy the largest portion of doctors, and are the main forces of diagnosis and treatment. Increase in the number of clinical doctors and improvement of their diagnosis and treatment capacities are an essential solution to the current prevalence of difficulties and high cost in medical treatment.

Teaching doctor

Teaching doctor, in addition to his clinical work, completes medical education tasks. To "cure the sickness to save the patient" and fulfill a higher level of mission, it is necessary to train more and better new doctors so as to meet the demands of more patients for diagnosis and treatment, and make the medical cause develop from generation to generation. Such doctors should be engaged in clinical and teaching work, they should study and work for the completion of these two missions. The teaching doctors train more and better new doctors, offering an essential solution to the current prevalence of difficulties and high cost in medical treatment.

Scientific research doctor

Scientific research doctors, in addition to clinical work, complete medical scientific research tasks, and undertake medical scientific research missions. As is known to everyone, medical scientific researches are very hard, very dangerous and sometimes life-threatening innovation activities. To "cure the sickness to save the patient", they keep inventing, discovering and creating, with their medical scientific research results benefiting more patients. Such doctors often have opportunities to become medical masters and celebrities. At all times and in all over the world, medical masters and celebrities are almost entirely famous scientific research doctors.

Omnipotent doctor

Omnipotent doctors undertake the tasks of above-mentioned three categories of doctors, namely, clinical, teaching and research. Omnipotent doctors are the best talents and model doctors, making the greatest contributions to the medical cause and the greatest achievements. Most of such doctors work at universities and research institutions. They have the most opportunities to become celebrities. Academicians of the medical profession in our country are mostly of this category.

Discussions on categories of doctors

In accordance with Doctor's Mission, doctors are divided into four categories, which is a man-made classification with the purpose of clearer expression of Doctor's Mission. The four categories are equal. A qualified doctor, no matter which categories he/she belongs to, works hard to "cure the sickness to save the patient" and completes the sacred mission. They are worthy of respect and admiration. At the same time, we must admit that, different people have different aspirations and different people have different abilities. We respect each and every doctor for his hard work, especially those who accomplish more "curing the sickness to save the patient" mission. On the basis of their contributions and dedication, they will receive better treatment and higher honors, which is in line with the requirements and social allocation principles. Most doctors would like to make greater contributions and become omnipotent doctors with teaching and research capacities. However, it is impossible for all doctors to become omnipotent doctors, neither in terms of conditions nor in terms of opportunities. Therefore, we should develop such a consensus: as long as they can complete the basic mission of diagnosis and treatment, they are angels in white worthy of respect and reputation as good doctors.

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