

*Trust vs Duty: Where should a doctor draw the line?*

**Definition**

**Confidentiality** is the ethical and legal obligation of a healthcare provider to **protect patient information and not disclose it without consent**, except in specific justified circumstances.

**Ethical Conflict**

**Autonomy & confidentiality (patient rights)**

vs

**Beneficence & non-maleficence (protecting others)**

**Key Principles**

- *Autonomy*
- *Beneficence*
- *Non-maleficence*
- *Justice*

**What confidentiality includes?**

- *Diagnosis (HIV, TB)*
- *Personal history (sexual exposure)*
- *Test results*
- *All healthcare records*

**Conditions for breach**

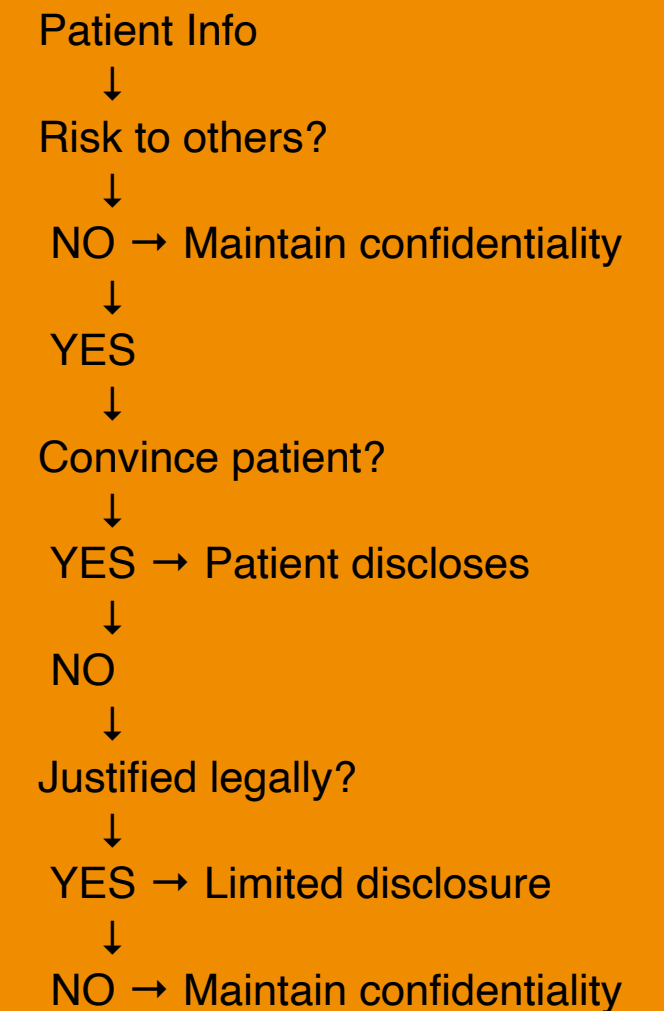
- *Minimum necessary disclosure*
- *Inform patient (if possible)*
- *Proper documentation*
- *To appropriate authority only*

**When confidentiality is maintained? When confidentiality is breached?**

- *Routine care*
- *Sensitive conditions*
- *Patient trust situations*

- *Risk to identifiable person (e.g., spouse)*
- *Public health risk (e.g., TB)*
- *Legal requirement*
- *Patient consent*
- *Patient incapacity*

**Decision Pathway**



**Confidentiality is NOT absolute — it ends where harm to others begins.**

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