

Ethics Terry Schulman, PhD, LCSW and Mary Ewert, DMH 7 weeks

COURSE DESCRIPTION What guides us in our professional conduct towards our patients, supervisees, students, colleagues and the public? What is the scope of our ethical responsibilities as psychoanalysts? In this course we will examine the parameters of the high standard of care expected of psychoanalysts in treatment, teaching, and research. We will begin by familiarizing ourselves with the Principles and Standards of Ethics for Psychoanalysts of the American Psychoanalytic Association. These principles presuppose a psychoanalyst's lifelong commitment to act ethically and to encourage similar ethical behavior in colleagues and students. Participants in this course will gain an understanding from different points of view of the foundational role of ethics in psychoanalysis. We will examine issues of ethical responsibility and the principles and standards required that each analyst must know and their institutions must support for analysts to function as responsible clinicians. Those taking this course will become more knowledgeable about the conflicts and difficulties that can arise with patients so that they can protect themselves and their patients' treatment in situations including their own illness or death or pulls toward behavior that might eventuate in a boundary violation. Course attendees will also learn about protecting patient confidentiality when writing case reports for presentation, answering legal challenges. Information about the complexities of communicating with patients using modern technologies will be distributed. The importance of understanding the way differences in race, culture and language between the analyst and patient appear in the treatment will be discussed. During the course, vignettes will be discussed to illustrate the complex ethical issues that may arise both in training and in practicing as graduate analysts.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

1. Describe and apply the Principles and Standards of the American Psychoanalytic Association.
2. Discuss different perspectives on foundational elements of psychoanalytic ethics.
3. Describe, assess, and compare different methods of protecting patient confidentiality when writing about patients for scientific presentation or journal articles.

4. Describe why the patient's request for the therapist to disclose information should not automatically be granted, and when legal consultation may be needed.
5. Describe patient characteristics and therapist factors that can strain therapy boundaries and increase the risk of boundary crossings or violations.

6. Protect a patient's treatment in the event of a therapist's illness injury or death.
7. Describe how the differences in race, culture and/or language between the analyst and patient make their appearance in the treatment and must be addressed.