

# ISSUES IN MEDICAL LAW AND ETHICS

Edited by  
Puteri Nemie Jahn Kassim  
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CELEBRATING  
20  
years

Medical Law and Ethics Unit  
Law Centre  
Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws

الجامعة الإسلامية العالمية  
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ إِذْ إِذَا اسْتَأْذَنُوا فَاجْبِبْهُمْ كَمَا اسْتَأْذَنُوا مِنْكَ وَعُزَّتِ بِكَ الْقُنُوصُ مِنَ الْوَعْدِ إِذْ وَعَدْتَ لَهُمُ الْقَنْصَ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

# **ISSUES IN MEDICAL LAW AND ETHICS**

**Medical Law and Ethics Unit  
Law Centre  
Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws  
International Islamic University Malaysia**

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8.	The Role of Mediation in Clinical Negligence Disputes <i>Richard Veerapen</i>	88
9.	Strict Liability for Infected Blood Transfusion <i>Naemah Amin</i>	110
10.	Medical Practice: An Islamic Perspective <i>Zainal Azam Abdul Rahman</i>	118

### **SECTION 3 : MEDICAL CONFIDENTIALITY : THE LEGAL AND MEDICAL PERSPECTIVES**

11.	Patients Information: Confidentiality and Implications from Legal Perspective <i>Juriah Abdul Jalil</i>	127
12.	Case Studies on the Principle of Confidentiality <i>Ravindran Jegasothy</i>	132

### **SECTION 4 : ISSUES IN REPRODUCTION : THE ETHICAL AND LEGAL DIMENSIONS**

13.	An Insight to the Ethics of Assisted Reproduction: Balancing Rights and Responsibilities <i>Majdah Zawawi and Zaleha Kamaruddin</i>	140
14.	Bioethics: Attack of the Clones <i>Abu Bakar Abdul Majeed</i>	155
15.	Damages for Wrongful Conception: <i>MacFarlane</i> and After <i>Muhamad Altaf Hussain Ahangar</i>	169
16.	Unwanted Pregnancies: Medical and Ethical Aspects <i>Ravindran Jegasothy</i>	185
17.	Abortion and Causing Miscarriage ( <i>al-Ijhad</i> ): Islamic Medical Perspectives <i>Nasimah Hussin</i>	203

# ABORTION AND CAUSING MISCARRIAGE (AL-IJHAD): ISLAMIC MEDICAL PERSPECTIVES

*Nasimah Hussin*

## **Introduction**

In this paper, I propose to deal with some issues related to medical ethics i.e. the issue of abortion and the liability of a medical practitioner who performs an abortion. All the discussions would be based on the viewpoint of Islamic Law.

The question arises as to whether the pregnancy of a woman can be terminated in any of its stages, whether abortion is allowed in Islam. Another related question is whether the medical practitioner has the right to perform abortion.

It is agreed by all jurists that medical practice is an imperative duty, i.e. *fard kifayah* based on social necessity. The doctor or physician has to carry out his duty without fail and he will not be held liable for the consequences of performing his duty as long as he fulfils the following conditions,<sup>1</sup> i.e.;

- a. The doctor should be a qualified practitioner. It means that he must have a qualification to practice the medical profession. Without the necessary qualification, he will be held accountable for whatever he does. The Prophet (p.b.u.h.) said:  
*"Whosoever gives medical treatment to someone and he is not known as a practitioner before that, will be held liable".<sup>2</sup>*
- b. The doctor must carry out his duty in good faith, i.e. with the intention of curing his patient.
- c. The treatment should conform to the principles of medicine and medical practice. His act must not contradict the normal medical practice.
- d. The treatment must be given with the permission of the patient. Permission may be given by the guardian or the relevant competent authority where necessary. However, this rule does not apply in the