



## MODULE ONE

### THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

#### OUTLINE

##### **A. Background – Medical Malpractice System**

1. Malpractice is negligence that occurs in the performance of a profession.
  2. The four elements of negligence:
    - a. Duty Owed - the existence of an obligation
    - b. Duty Breached - failure to deliver the obligation
    - c. Causation - the link between breach and harm
    - d. Damages - patient injury
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##### **B. Creation of the Duty – The doctor-patient relationship**

1. Simply being physicians does not obligate us to our fellow man.
  2. The doctor-patient relationship creates the duty to another person.
  3. A doctor-patient relationship is formed when a doctor has professional contact with a patient.
  4. It is not necessary to see the person physically in order to form a doctor-patient relationship.
  5. Anyone whom you supervise and have authority over can form doctor-patient relationships for you.
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##### **C. Case Scenarios**

1. Case Study: Scheduling an Appointment
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