



MODULE ONE – TEST
THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

ANSWER KEY
*Correct answer in italics

CHOOSE THE RESPONSE WHICH BEST ANSWERS THE QUESTION.

1. **A licensed physician is obligated to another person with respect to his healthcare needs:**

- a. If the physician is aware that the patient has a need;
- b. *If the two are in a doctor-patient relationship;*
- c. If the physician is licensed to practice medicine;
- d. As soon as the patient schedules an appointment with the physician.

Explanation: A physician's obligation to another person arises out of a doctor-patient relationship, which is created when a doctor has some type of professional contact with a patient. The mere awareness of a need, a license to practice medicine or scheduling an appointment is insufficient to create an obligation on the part of the physician.

2. **A doctor-patient relationship:**

- a. Does not exist unless the patient is billed for the services provided;
- b. Does not exist if the patient refuses to pay for the services provided;
- c. Cannot be formed in a social setting;
- d. *Is formed any time persons assume the roles of doctor and patient.*

Explanation: A doctor-patient relationship can be formed anywhere and any time that two persons assume the roles of doctor and patient. Although a physician can usually refuse to accept a patient who will/can not pay and may also terminate his relationship with a patient who cannot pay, a relationship can be formed without any consideration of the financial relationship between the parties.