

# **Dr. W. MOORE**

## **Ethicist**

PO Box 828, Windhoek, Namibia

Telephone + 264 61 237666 - Mobile 081 277 2565 - E-Mail [wmoore@therapinfo.com.na](mailto:wmoore@therapinfo.com.na)

---

### **Ethics as the key to professional health care in South Africa**

South African health care is currently under severe pressure due to a steady increase in the number of incidents of medical malpractice that almost inevitably resulted in an alarming escalation in medical malpractice litigation in both the public and private sectors.

Numerous studies on the matter have indicated that this dilemma can be largely attributed to a grave neglect and even contempt of core ethical principles and professional duties among health care professionals.

In response to the latter, there is an urgent need to cultivate an adequate understanding of the concept and rationale of ethics as portrayed in King IV and of core ethical principles such as respect for human dignity, best interest or well-being: non-maleficence, best interest or well-being: beneficence, human rights, respect for patient autonomy, integrity, truthfulness, privacy, confidentiality, compassion, tolerance, justice, professional competence, voluntariness and contributions to society that constitute the standards for good professional practice.

Furthermore, these principles need to be integrated in the health care practice, tied to what it means to be a professional and to have professional duties and integrated in the duties health care professionals have towards their patients, colleagues and other professionals, referred patients, themselves, their profession, society and the environment.

Also required, is an appreciation of the decisive role of deeply embedded morals, values and attitudes and of the ethical rules of veracity, privacy, confidentiality and fidelity in the establishment and maintenance of a proper doctor-patient relationship.

On this basis, further guidance can be provided on matters such as informed consent, conflicts between beneficence and autonomy and on ethical dilemmas such as abortion and euthanasia.

Dr. Willem Moore

### **Bio sketch – Dr. Willem Moore**

After completing his theological studies in 1982 and acting as head of the Language Laboratory of the University of Stellenbosch from January 1983 until July 1988, Willem took up the position of Minister of the Dutch Reformed Congregation of Suiderhof in Windhoek in August 1988. In the next couple of years, he obtained Masters degrees in Theology and Philosophy and left the service of the Church in 2002 to start lecturing Philosophy and Business and Medical Ethics at the University of Namibia in respectively 2003, 2011 and 2012. Willem obtained his DPhil in Ethics from Stellenbosch University in 2010 and left the full-time service of the University of Namibia in 2013 to head Therapeutic Informatics, a practice that specialises in spiritual consultations and in the lecturing and application Business and Medical Ethics. He is a member and Certified Ethics Officer of the Ethics Institute of South Africa (EO 424), a member of the Faculty of the South African Medico-Legal Association (SAMLA) and is currently in collaboration with SAMLA, heading an international research project on a new approach to the doctor-patient relationship.