Pı	Preface		
T	Tribute to Vernon Plueckhahn		
A	Acknowledgements		
A	bout the au	thors	
Ta	able of case	s	
Ta	Table of statutes		
In	ıdex		
1	Introd	luction: good medical practice in a changing environment	
	1.1	Changes in medical education	
	1.2	Changes in the medical workforce	
	1.3	Changes in the practice of medicine	
	1.4	Changes in medical regulation	
	1.5	Changes in medical law	
	1.6	Changes relating to doctors' health and work-life balance	
	1.7	Community attitudes to the medical profession and health care	
	1.8	The implications of these changes	
	1.9	Responses to these changes	
	1.10	Other matters	
2	On be	eing a good doctor: professionalism and the art and science of medicine	
	2.1	What is professionalism?	
	2.2	What does unprofessional medical practice look like?	
	23	Professionalism as a social contract	

2.4	Self-regulation as a defining feature of a profession
2.5	What is driving the current focus on professionalism?
2.6	How is professionalism learned?
2.7	Fostering and maintaining professionalism
2.8	What are the attributes of a good doctor?
2.9	Coping with the demands of being a good doctor
2.10	Medicine: a science and an art
2.11	What constitutes the art of medicine?
2.12	How is the art of medicine best taught?
Ethica	al principles for the medical profession
3.1	Some historical context
3.2	What are ethics?
3.3	An introduction to ethical thinking
3.4	A modern framework for discussing medical ethics
3.5	Ethical qualities desired of doctors
3.6	Modern codes of medical ethics
3.7	The rights of patients
3.8	Upholding ethical codes of conduct
3.9	The mutability of medical ethics
3.10	The law and medical ethics in conflict
3.11	Conflicts between ethical principles
3.12	Ethics beyond the doctor-patient relationship
3.13	Ethics and limited resources
Ethica	al and legal responsibilities of medical students
4.1	Considerations before enrolment
4.2	Criteria for enrolment and selection procedures
4.3	Registration of medical students

- 4.4 Objectives of the medical course
- 4.5 Professional ethics for students
- 4.6 The student and the health-care team
- 4.7 Student health
- 4.8 Responsibilities of, and professional ethics for, medical teachers and supervisors

5 Communication in clinical practice

- 5.1 Obstacles to effective communication
- 5.2 The use of communication skills in medical practice
- 5.3 Appreciating psychosocial factors in patients seeking medical help
- 5.4 The physical examination
- 5.5 Concluding the consultation
- 5.6 Working with interpreters
- 5.7 Transcultural issues and cultural competence
- 5.8 Communicating and telemedicine
- 5.9 Communicating when things go wrong
- 5.10 Coping with angry patients
- 5.11 Coping with 'difficult' patient–doctor encounters
- 5.12 Medicolegal examinations
- 5.13 Touching patients
- 5.14 Talking about sex and sexuality
- 5.15 Talking about dying
- 5.16 Doctors and other health professionals as patients
- 5.17 Ending a doctor–patient relationship
- 5.18 The importance of written communication
- 5.19 Intra- and interprofessional communication and relationships

6 Consent and informed decision making

6.1	Elements of valid consent
6.2	Implied, oral or written consent
6.3	Consent for surgical or other major invasive procedures
6.4	Therapeutic privilege and withholding information
6.5	The nocebo effect
6.6	Patients who may not be legally able to consent
6.7	Consent of children and young people
6.8	Children who are intellectually disabled
6.9	Substitute decision makers
6.10	Consent for special procedures
6.11	Treatment without consent
6.12	Consent and patients with mental illness
6.13	Refusal of treatment
6.14	Refusal of blood transfusion
6.15	Informed consent and the performance record of the doctor
Confi	identiality, privacy and disclosure
7.1	Confidentiality distinguished from privacy
7.2	The ethical basis of confidentiality
7.3	Confidentiality in the doctor's surgery
7.4	Confidentiality and electronic communication
7.5	Confidentiality and medical reports and certificates
7.6	Sharing information in the health-care team
7.7	Exceptions to the duty of confidentiality
7.8	The legal basis of confidentiality
7.9	Statutory authorisation of disclosure
7.10	Disclosure in court
7.11	Public interest and disclosure

7.12 Disclosure to the police 7.13 The legal basis of privacy 7.14 Enforcement provisions 7.15 Other considerations Medical records, reports and certificates 8.1 The importance of medical records 8.2 What is a medical record? 8.3 What should be recorded? 8.4 Guidelines for making medical records 8.5 Electronic medical records 8.6 Safety and security of records 8.7 Ownership of medical records 8.8 Access to medical records 8.9 Medical records and privacy legislation Patient access under privacy and freedom of information law 8.10 8.11 Releasing medical records to third parties 8.12 Retention and destruction of medical records 8.13 Retention of medical records when a doctor retires or dies 8.14 Medical records and the courts 8.15 Medical records and research 8.16 Medical reports 8.17 Medical certificates Negligence, professional liability and adverse events 9.1 Causes of action against doctors

9

- 9.2 Actions for negligence
- 9.3 Criminal negligence and manslaughter
- The doctor's duty of care 9.4

	9.5	The required standard of care
	9.6	The circumstances of negligence
	9.7	Assessment of damages
	9.8	Statutes of limitations
	9.9	Vicarious liability
	9.10	The medical indemnity crisis and its outcomes
	9.11	Adverse events and their prevention
	9.12	Risk management and preventing claims for negligence
	9.13	Open disclosure
	9.14	The power of an apology
	9.15	The role of medical indemnity organisations
10	The r	egulation of the medical profession
	10.1	Historical background
	10.2	The change to a national system of medical registration
	10.3	The functions of the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council
	10.4	The role of the Australian Health Workforce Advisory Council
	10.5	The functions of Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency
	10.6	The functions of the Medical Board of Australia
	10.7	Current exceptions to uniformity under the National Law
	10.8	Some teething problems
	10.9	The impact of the national registration scheme
	10.10	The establishment and membership of the Medical Board of Australia and state boards
	10.11	The Australian Medical Council
	10.12	Medical registration
	10.13	International medical graduates
	10.14	Reporting obligations of registered doctors

10.15	Registration of medical students	
10.16	Complaints and discipline or performance hearings	
10.17	Mandatory reporting obligations	
10.18	Complaint-handling processes	
10.19	The investigation of complaints/notifications	
10.20	What constitutes unprofessional conduct?	
10.21	Code of practice	
10.22	The poorly performing doctor	
10.23	Disciplinary and performance actions and hearings	
10.24	Nature of complaints subject to tribunal hearings	
10.25	Trust and the medical practitioner	
10.26	Sexual misconduct	
10.27	The impaired practitioner	
10.28	Illness leading to impairment	
10.29	Notification and handling of possible impairment	
10.30	Disruptive doctors	
10.31	Doctors of bad character	
10.32	Advertising by doctors	
10.33	Doctors who practise alternative medicine	
Health-care complaints systems		

- 11.1 Health complaints commissions
- Health professionals covered by legislation 11.2

- 11.3 Who may lodge a complaint?
- 11.4 Complaints that raise questions of unprofessional conduct
- 11.5 What constitutes a complaint?
- 11.6 How complaints are handled and resolved
- 11.7 The frequency, nature and source of complaints against doctors
- 11.8 Preventing complaints and responding to them

12 Sexual and other boundaries

- 12.1 What are boundaries in clinical medicine and why do they exist?
- 12.2 What constitutes sexual misconduct
- 12.3 The incidence of sexual misconduct
- 12.4 Reasons for under-reporting or failure to complain
- 12.5 The psychodynamics of the breach of professional sexual boundaries
- 12.6 Why sexual misconduct by doctors is ethically unacceptable
- 12.7 Reporting complaints: the doctor's ethical and legal duties
- 12.8 Handling complaints of sexual misconduct
- 12.9 Disciplinary outcomes
- 12.10 False accusations
- 12.11 Benzodiazepines and sexual fantasy
- 12.12 Prevention of sexual misconduct by doctors
- 12.13 Early warning signs
- 12.14 Is rehabilitation possible?

	12.16	Sexual abuse and sexual harassment outside the doctor-patient relationship
	12.17	Other problematic boundary issues
13	Perso	nal health of the doctor: illness and impairment
	10.1	
	13.1	Ethical and legal responsibilities
	13.2	The importance of doctor wellbeing
	13.3	The extent of health problems for doctors
	13.4	Why doctors become unwell
	13.5	Prevention and early detection
	13.6	Sources of help for ill and impaired doctors: treatment and rehabilitation
	13.7	Caring for yourself and your family
	13.8	Treating other doctors
	13.9	Doctors who carry a transmissible infection
	13.10	The ageing doctor
14	Patier	nt safety and maintenance of clinical competence
	14.1	Maintenance of clinical competence
	14.2	The terminology of maintaining competence
	14.3	Maintenance of professional standards programs in Australia
	14.4	Recertification and revalidation
	14.5	Patient safety: some recent history
	14.6	Approaches to patient safety

Intimate examinations and the use of chaperones

12.15

	14.7	Other accreditation or certification programs
	14.8	The role of the doctor in patient safety and risk management
15	Resou	rce allocation and rationing in health care
	15.1	Ethical considerations
	15.2	Where resource allocation decisions are made
	15.3	The doctor and resource allocation
	15.4	Approaches taken to resource allocation and rationing
	15.5	The law and resource allocation
16	The A	ustralian health-care system
	16.1	An overview of the health-care system
	16.2	Health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians
	16.3	Government health departments
	16.4	Medicare Australia
	16.5	Medicare regulations for doctors
	16.6	Specialist recognition for Medicare purposes
	16.7	The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
	16.8	Private health insurance
	16.9	The role of universities and medical colleges
	16.10	Teaching hospitals
	16.11	The Australian Medical Association and other associations
	16.12	Australian Council on Healthcare Standards
	16.13	Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

16.14

Some recent reforms

- 16.15 Registration of other health-care providers
- 16.16 Alternative health-care providers
- 16.16 National Health and Medical Research Council

17 The doctor and interprofessional relationships

- 17.1 The legal and ethical context
- 17.2 Nurses
- 17.3 Pharmacists
- 17.4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners
- 17.5 Ambulance officers and paramedics
- 17.6 Advice to doctors about requesting an ambulance
- 17.7 Clinical psychologists
- 17.8 Dentists
- 17.9 Dietitians
- 17.10 Occupational therapists
- 17.11 Optometrists
- 17.12 Physiotherapists
- 17.13 Podiatrists
- 17.14 Prosthetists and orthotists
- 17.15 Radiographers
- 17.16 Social workers
- 17.17 Speech pathologists

17.18	Chaplains and pastoral care practitioners	
17.19	Interpreters	
17.20	Lawyers	
17.21	Medical librarians	
17.22	Police	
17.23	Complementary and alternative medicine practitioners	
17.24	Chiropractors	
17.25	Osteopaths	
17.26	Traditional Chinese medicine practitioners	
Entering and leaving practice and practice management		
18.1	Choosing your career	
18.1 18.2	Choosing your career Importance of good practice management	
18.2	Importance of good practice management	
18.2 18.3	Importance of good practice management Preparing to enter private practice	
18.2 18.3 18.4	Importance of good practice management Preparing to enter private practice Setting up a medical practice	
18.2 18.3 18.4 18.5	Importance of good practice management Preparing to enter private practice Setting up a medical practice Options to avoid managing your own practice	
18.2 18.3 18.4 18.5 18.6	Importance of good practice management Preparing to enter private practice Setting up a medical practice Options to avoid managing your own practice Recognition by Medicare Australia	
18.2 18.3 18.4 18.5 18.6	Importance of good practice management Preparing to enter private practice Setting up a medical practice Options to avoid managing your own practice Recognition by Medicare Australia Medical indemnity	
18.2 18.3 18.4 18.5 18.6 18.7	Importance of good practice management Preparing to enter private practice Setting up a medical practice Options to avoid managing your own practice Recognition by Medicare Australia Medical indemnity Selecting, employing and training staff	

- 18.12 Marketing the practice/advertising
- 18.13 Planning for a healthy approach to work
- 18.14 Closing a medical practice
- 18.15 Planning for retirement

19 Doctors, industry and conflicts of interest

- 19.1 Ethical issues at stake
- 19.2 Defining conflict of interest
- 19.3 How industry interacts with doctors
- 19.4 What industry claims about its interactions
- 19.5 The behaviour of the pharmaceutical industry
- 19.6 How and why industry approaches work
- 19.7 The effect of industry interactions on doctors
- 19.8 The effect of doctor-industry relationships on patient trust
- 19.9 Medical students and medical education
- 19.10 Continuing medical education
- 19.11 Industry effects on clinical research
- 19.12 Clinical practice guidelines
- 19.13 Conflict of interest and universities, medical colleges and medical associations
- 19.14 Conflict of interest and medical journals
- 19.15 The industry's response to public concerns
- 19.16 How to best deal with conflicts of interest

- 19.17 Some important ways forward
- 19.18 Medical and surgical device companies

20 Medical research

- 20.1 Codes of ethics in clinical research
- 20.2 Research governance
- 20.3 What constitutes clinical research
- 20.4 Requirements for ethically acceptable research
- 20.5 Special areas in medical research
- 20.6 Standards for responsible research conduct
- 20.7 Patenting of medical procedures
- 20.8 Research undertaken in private medical practice
- 20.9 Misconduct in medical research
- 20.10 Biomedical research using animals

21 Prescribing and administering drugs

- 21.1 Standard schedule of drugs and poisons
- 21.2 Some relevant terminology
- 21.3 Prescribing drugs: general advice
- 21.4 Computer-generated prescriptions
- 21.5 Authority prescriptions
- 21.6 Prescribing drugs of dependence
- 21.7 Storage and record keeping of drugs of dependence

- 21.8 Storage of Schedule 4 drugs
- 21.9 Relationship of doctors with pharmacists
- 21.10 Prescribing for family and relatives
- 21.11 Prescribing in an emergency
- 21.12 Prescribing for patients travelling abroad
- 21.13 Prescribing in hospitals and nursing homes
- 21.14 Prescribing or dispensing unregistered drugs
- 21.15 Prescribing drugs outside their specific indications
- 21.16 Prescribing benzodiazepines
- 21.17 Prescribing drugs of dependence for chronic non-malignant conditions
- 21.18 Generic versus trade names
- 21.19 Prescribing and dispensing
- 21.20 Responsibilities of patients

22 Diagnosing and certifying death and the role of the coroner

- 22.1 Recent developments in the diagnosis of death
- 22.2 Responsibilities of doctors attending a person thought to be dead
- 22.3 Responsibility for completing the death certificate
- 22.4 The cause of death
- 22.5 Different types of death certificates
- 22.6 Providing the death certificate
- 22.7 Deaths reportable to coroners

- 22.8 Surgical, anaesthetic and adverse event-related deaths
- 22.9 Death related to fractured neck of femur among elderly patients
- 22.10 Cremation
- 22.11 The diagnosis of brain death
- 22.12 Brain death and organ transplantation
- 22.13 The use of tissues removed at autopsy

23 Births, assisted reproductive technology, family law and child protection

- 23.1 Notification of births (including stillbirths)
- 23.2 Assisted reproductive technology
- 23.3 Parentage issues in artificial insemination by donor and in-vitro fertilisation
- 23.4 Surrogate motherhood
- 23.5 The Commonwealth Family Law Act 1975
- 23.6 Child abuse and child protection

24 Termination of pregnancy and related issues

- 24.1 Legal regulation of abortion: historical background
- 24.2 Abortion law in Australia
- 24.3 The law in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania
- 24.4 Early medical abortion
- 24.5 Abortion and conscientious objection
- 24.6 Proportionality of risk
- 24.7 Late term (third trimester) abortion

- 24.8 Child destruction
- 24.9 Concealment of birth

25 End-of-life care

- 25.1 Professional responsibilities in end-of-life care
- 25.2 Good-quality end-of-life care: a 'good death'
- 25.3 Futile or burdensome treatment, and withholding or withdrawing treatment
- 25.4 Advance care plans and directives
- 25.5 Refusal of medical treatment
- 25.6 Not-for-resuscitation orders
- 25.7 The role of the courts in end-of-life care
- 25.8 Provision of palliative care
- 25.9 Treatment decisions for newborn infants
- 25.10 Withholding or withdrawing treatment in children
- 25.11 Post-coma unresponsiveness
- 25.12 Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide

26 The law and people with mental illness

- 26.1 Definition of mental illness
- 26.2 Admission procedures
- 26.3 Involuntary admission
- 26.4 Use of seclusion and restraint
- 26.5 Persons incapable of caring for themselves

- 26.6 Community treatment orders
- 26.7 Security admissions
- 26.8 Patients' rights
- 26.9 Community and official visitors
- 26.10 Special treatment procedures
- 26.11 Consent to non-psychiatric treatment
- 26.12 Review and appeal procedures

27 The law and courts in Australia

- 27.1 Sources and forms of law in Australia
- 27.2 Legislation
- 27.3 The Australian Federation
- 27.4 Codification
- 27.5 Subordinate legislation
- 27.6 Schedules
- 27.7 Common law
- 27.8 Types of Australian law
- 27.9 Standards of proof
- 27.10 Civil litigation: contract and torts

	27.11	Crimes
	27.12	Courts of law in Australia
	27.13	Administrative tribunals
	27.14	Commonwealth Ombudsman
28	Medic	olegal examinations and reports, court procedures and expert evidence
	28.1	Medicolegal reports
	28.2	Problems arising in medicolegal examinations
	28.3	Expert witness reports
	28.4	Court procedures
	28.5	The adversarial system
	28.6	The giving of evidence
	28.7	Evidence of fact
	28.8	Hearsay evidence
	28.9	Appearing in court
	28.10	Subpoena
	28.11	The doctor as a witness
	28.12	Expert evidence

- 28.14 Fees for court appearances
- 28.15 Doctors and jury duty

29 Other legislation relevant to medical practice

28.13 The experience of being a medical witness

- 29.1 Social security legislation
- 29.2 Testamentary capacity and witnessing wills
- 29.3 Statutory declarations
- 29.4 Responsibilities of doctors in relation to injury or accident
- 29.5 Workers' compensation and rehabilitation
- 29.6 Pre-employment medical examinations
- 29.7 Motor vehicle accidents
- 29.8 Giving roadside assistance
- 29.9 Fitness to drive a motor vehicle
- 29.10 Doctors' responsibilities to individuals at risk
- 29.11 Child abuse
- 29.12 Infectious diseases
- 29.13 Doctors and people with intellectual disability
- 29.14 Notification of cancer
- 29.15 Alcohol- and drug-dependent persons
- 29.16 Blood samples from persons accused of serious crime
- 29.17 Trade practices legislation
- 29.18 Firearms legislation

Tables

- 6.1 Approach to assessing decision-making capacity p 14
- 6.2 Guardianship legislation and public advocates and guardians p 23

- 7.1 Health privacy and information legislation and websites p 17
- 11.1 Health complaints commissioners (or equivalent) p 3
- 13.1. Names, telephone numbers and websites of doctors' health advisory services p 12
- 21.1 Legislation controlling the prescription and use of drugs p 2
- 21.2 Contact details for drugs of dependence units in each state and territory p 12
- 22.1 Legislation providing for the definition of death p 2
- 22.2 Legislation providing for the certification of death p 5
- 22.3 Comparison of state and territory coroners acts: reportable deaths generally p 10
- 23.1 Births, deaths and marriages registration acts: summary of notification obligations p 2
- 23.2 Notification of suspected child abuse p 13
- 25.1 Legislation regarding advance care directives and refusal of treatment p 10
- 26.1 Mental health legislation and mental health review tribunals p 12