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An MBBS Doctor Admits a Patient Under Him and a Specialist Visits the Patient 1 or 2 Times. But, the Patient does not Change the File Name or Transfers the Case. Is This Correct or Incorrect?

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Yes, the treatment can be carried on by the MBBS doctor, even if the specialist visits the patient 1 or 2 times. Further, as per the provisions of **Regulation 3.6 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette & Ethics) Regulations, 2002,** it is the duty of the physician to prepare a case summary of the patient while referring the patient to the specialist and then the specialist should communicate his opinion in writing to the attending physician. The relevant provisions of **Regulation 3.6 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette & Ethics) Regulations, 2002** are reproduced hereunder:

"Chapter 3: Duties of Physician in Consultation

3.6 Patients referred to specialists: *When a patient is referred to a specialist by the attending physician, a case summary of the patient should be given to the specialist, who should communicate his opinion in writing to the attending physician."*

Further, there are certain responsibilities of the physician towards each other which are enumerated in **Chapter 4 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette & Ethics) Regulations, 2002,** which are reproduced hereunder:

"Chapter 4: Responsibilities of Physicians to Each Other

4.1 Dependence of physicians on each other: *A physician should consider it as a pleasure and privilege to render gratuitous service to all physicians and their immediate family dependants.*

4.2 Conduct in consultation: *In consultations, no insincerity, rivalry or envy should be indulged in. All due respect should be observed towards the physician in-charge of the case and no statement or remark be made, which would impair the confidence reposed in him. For this purpose no discussion should be carried on in the presence of the patient or his representatives.*

4.3 Consultant not to take charge of the case: *When a physician has been called for consultation, the Consultant should normally not take charge of the case, especially on the solicitation of the patient or friends. The Consultant shall not criticize the referring physician. He/she shall discuss the diagnosis treatment plan with the referring physician.*

4.4 Appointment of substitute: *Whenever a physician requests another physician to attend his patients during his temporary absence from his practice, professional courtesy requires the acceptance of such appointment only when he has the capacity to discharge the additional responsibility along with his/her other duties. The physician acting under such an appointment should give the utmost consideration to the interests and reputation of the absent physician and all such patients should be restored to the care of the latter upon his/her return.*

4.5 Visiting another Physician's case: *When it becomes the duty of a physician occupying an official position to see and report upon an illness or injury, he should communicate to the physician in attendance so as to give him an option of being present. The medical officer/physician occupying an official position should avoid remarks upon the diagnosis or the treatment that has been adopted."*

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