



**Tehran University of Medical Science  
Faculty of Medicine**

**Title:**

**The Concept analysis of discrimination in clinical medical ethics and  
patients' perception of this concept**

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**By**

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## Abstract

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**Introduction and Purpose:** Discrimination is a significant concern in healthcare as it involves treating individuals differently based on their inherent characteristics or membership in specific groups. This unfair treatment is influenced by various factors, including the surrounding context and differing interpretations by individuals, which can pose risks to their health. This study aims to examine the concept of discrimination in clinical medical ethics and explore patients' perspectives on this issue.

**Methodology:** This combined study was carried out in two stages, involving concept analysis using Walker and Avant's method (2019) and conventional content analysis using Granheim and Lundman's method (2008). In the initial stage, an integrative review was conducted to identify relevant articles, resulting in the selection of 43 articles from searches on Scopus and PubMed up to February 2024. These articles were analyzed using Granheim and Lundman's method (2008). In the second stage, twenty patients were purposefully selected, and data were collected through individual, face-to-face, semi-structured interviews. The collected data were then analyzed using content analysis.

**Results:** The text analysis identified three key features within the context of discrimination in clinical medical ethics: categorization of individuals based on characteristics, varying appraisal of individuals based on traits, and disparate treatment based on characteristics. Additionally, two contributing factors were pinpointed: inadequate training of healthcare professionals and ineffective management. Moreover, two outcomes were highlighted: adverse impacts of discrimination in accessing healthcare services and harm to victims of discrimination. The analysis suggests that discrimination in clinical medical ethics is a multifaceted process that involves categorizing individuals according to different attributes, evaluating each category, and providing unequal treatment based on these evaluations. In the second stage, findings related to patients' perceptions of discrimination in clinical medical ethics yielded 14 subcategories, and four overarching categories: failure to receive necessary healthcare services, harm caused to victims of discrimination, and satisfaction with the delivery of required healthcare services.

**Discussion and conclusion:** The study findings revealed that the lack of necessary health services for patients and the harm caused to victims of discrimination were both identified through the analysis of texts and patient experiences.

**Keywords:** discrimination, health, victims' injuries, health services,