



The New Jersey
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New Jersey Eye MDs

414 River View Plaza | Trenton, New Jersey 08611
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Duty to Patients: Beginning, Ending, and Obligations

Purpose/Relevance:



Presenters: Robert E. Wiggins, Jr, MD, MHA
Anne M. Menke, RN, PhD

Objectives: Determining whether a doctor-patient relationship exists is an important professional liability cases as this

relationship creates a duty to care for the patient. If there is no relationship, there can be no malpractice. In most situations, establishing this relationship is clear cut though in some cases the existence of a relationship is ambiguous and can even result in a claim

being filed when the physician has not examined the patient. A lack of understanding of this relationship has resulted in professional liability claims and, in some cases, patient harm.

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