The essence of medical secrecy according to the Polish law

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ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** The purpose of this paper is to present the essence of medical secrecy. Notes included in the article refer to Polish law. It is desirable to, firstly, attempt at a definition of "medical secret", and secondly, at the basis of the proposed definition determine the content and substance of a physician’s duty to maintain confidentiality of certain information.

**Materials and methods:** Indications and other selected postulates presented in this paper will be based on a review of existing legislation and scientific reflection.

**Conclusions:** Obligation of medical secrecy is in fact a number of duties of different importance, which generally ensures confidentiality of personal data.

**Key words:** Medical secrecy, physician’s duty, confidentiality of certain information, liability