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## A confucian model of physician-patient relations

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## **A Confucian Model of Physician-Patient Relations**

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In contrast to the West, the traditional Chinese conception of a —Confucian doctor takes an intimate relation with a patient as a merit. Physicians have to regard the patient as one's own intimate family members rather than an impartial and detached attitude. The merit of such a relation is to enhance the care and concern of the physician and the building up of the trust of the patient towards the physician. This paper first clarifies the meaning of such a relationship and how it prescribes the professional code in a different but appropriate behaviour in clinical situations. It is argued that this relationship provides a better model for the service of the patient and her family than the contractual or contractarian model of the West. Finally it prescribes certain modifications of a medical education program for future physicians and nurses