

ICMM Center of Reference for Education on IHL and Ethics

Swiss Armed Forces
Medical Services Directorate

International Committee of Military Medicine



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

Medical Neutrality in Theory and Practice

15-17 June 2023 | Spiez (CH) and online

During armed conflicts and other emergencies, medical services shall not be interfered with. This is the main tenet of what has been labelled “medical neutrality”. This principle is grounded in International Humanitarian Law as well as in Human Rights Law and it can be justified by ethical rationales such as the principle of Humanity and ordinary medical ethics. Health workers often understand medical neutrality as an obligation not to engage in anything else other than medical outcomes.

Our workshop shall provide an opportunity to discuss medical neutrality and the related concepts like impartiality from a variety of perspectives. Presentations could cover topics within the following list but need not be restricted to it.

- Ethical aspects of the principle of neutrality.
- How is medical neutrality implemented in practice? Operationalizing medical neutrality.
- Can health care be provided without effectively providing military advantage?
- Neutrality and military necessity.
- Neutrality and impartiality – differences and their relationship.
- Does medical neutrality provide a justification to provide medical care to anybody?
- Historical perspectives on medical neutrality.
- Medical neutrality and the limits of what HCP are allowed to do. Participation in weapon development? Providing medical care to further non-medical ends?

If you are interested in contributing please read the full call for papers at the link below for further instructions.

[Full Call for Papers with instructions on how to submit on the page on the workshop](#) or [here as PDF](#).

- Registration for participants is also open [News - ICMM Centre of Reference for Education on IHL and Ethics | Military Medical Ethics \(melac.ch\)](#)

