

## Bureaucracy

**Bureaucracy** refers to administrative systems that prioritize process over purpose, form over function, and compliance over clarity.

In medicine and academia, bureaucracy often manifests as:

\*A dense web of rules, approvals, forms, and hierarchies that consume time and energy — without improving patient care or knowledge.\*

### Examples in clinical and academic settings

- Endless paperwork for procedures that used to rely on clinical judgment
- Research projects delayed by irrelevant ethics hoops or institutional politics
- Committees formed to discuss things no one will act on
- Protocols that no one questions — even when outdated or harmful
- Evaluation systems that reward checkbox completion over critical thinking

### When bureaucracy becomes pathological

- When it protects itself instead of those it was meant to serve
- When it punishes initiative and rewards conformity
- When it drowns clinical intuition under layers of permission
- When it turns thinking professionals into form-filling clerks

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**Bureaucracy is what happens when a system forgets why it exists.**

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