Ethics 101

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Ethics 101

- Does your PACE program have an Ethics Committee
- PACE regulations require that you do
- Must have community involvement
- Does not specify the composition
Ethics 101

• Our Ethics committee is made of team members from different programs
• Includes leadership and executive team representation
• Includes a community presence with representation from the hospital systems
Ethics 101

• Who can ask for an ethics consult by the committee
  • Anyone (and that means anyone)
• We meet when asked to help with an ethical dilemma
• We also meet up to 4 times a year for educational purposes
Ethics 101

• There are six steps in the analysis of any ethical problem.
• Lots of information that may provide partial facts.
• Can stimulate strong emotional reactions
• Always commend the team or members who bring the request forward
1. Just The Facts

• Get the story Straight: Gather all relevant information and make sure everyone has the same facts.

• The general checklist for data:
  • A. Clinical information
  • B. Preferences of patient
  • C. Advanced Directives/TPOPP
2. Identify the Ethical Problem

Is this ethical distress for the patient, family, decision maker, or caregivers?

Is there an ethical dilemma?

Is this an authority problem?

Allow for emotion and encourage discussion.
3. Use Ethical Approach

- Principle of Double Effect is the most common approach to use.
- The nature of the act is good and morally neutral.
- We intend a good effect and not bad.
- The good outweighs the bad effect.
- Identify which ethical principles are in conflict.
4. Explore All Practical Alternatives

• What should be done or can be done
• Use imagination to enhance decision
• Think more expansively about alternatives
5. Suggest Possible Course of Action

• This is not the final decision
• It must be in agreement with all ethical principles
• Provide written recommendations to team or member
6. Complete Documentation

- What were recommendations
- Discuss with family and patient
- Discuss with medical team caring for them
Principles of Bioethics

• **Autonomy**: Self determination or Self rule that is free from controlling interference by others

• **Nonmaleficence**: Hippocratic Oath, do no harm. The heart of a caring response. Requires intentionally refraining from actions that cause harm
Principles of Bioethics

• **Beneficence**: An action done to benefit others. Act of mercy, kindness, and charity. “I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgement.”
Principles of Bioethics

- **Justice**: Fair, equitable, and appropriate treatment for all.
- **Fidelity**: Faithful devotion to duty or obligation. Loyalty.
- **Veracity**: The ethical principle of veracity binds us to honesty and telling the truth.
Principles of Bioethics

- Medical Indications
- Beneficence and Nonmaleficence
- Patient Preferences
- Autonomy
Principles of Bioethics

- Quality of Life
- Beneficence, Nonmaleficence, and Autonomy
- Contextual Features
- Autonomy and Justice
References


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