

Preface

The idea for this textbook was born out of a need for a teaching resource that merges medical ethics theory with the practical needs of modern clinical medicine. Our goal in writing this book is to provide a method for the reader to learn how to systematically manage dilemmas seen in the everyday practice of medicine. The reader is guided through several “typical” patient scenarios and prompted by various questions that should be entertained by the treating health care provider. Then, relevant evidence-based medicine, legal precedent, and the ethical theory that applies to the situation are revealed. Often, finding the “best” ethical solution for each problem is automatic, as the solution often becomes self-evident during information gathering. This general method is reinforced throughout the text with multiple cases, using a practice-based approach by building on the reader’s developing skills. Additionally, we have sought to emphasize a culturally competent manner to resolve these dilemmas, respectfully addressing issues of age, gender, and culture whenever possible. It is our hope that the reader will enjoy the mystery-solving style that each case offers and will subsequently adapt a patient-centered and evidence-based approach to the dilemmas they may face in their future practice of medicine or work in the medical ethics field.

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