



# Welcome to Ethics: Dilemmas of a Different Kind

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# Chair of Hospital Ethics Committee:

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Mark Boswell, MD





# The World(s) of Ethics

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- The Kind of Person one is (Character)
- The Values, Principles, Procedures Held
- Methodology in Ethics
- Religious, non-religious Ground-of-Meaning Beliefs, Loyalties



# Core Competencies in Medicine

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- Professionalism, Ethics
- Principles and Concepts
- Training in Bioethics
- Board Exam Questions
- Certification, Licensing
- CME studies



# Case: Dilemma in the ICU

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- End-of-Life Care/treatment
- 77 y/o man with MI; grim prognosis
  - Multi-organ failure, hypotensive, edema, jaundice
  - No Advance Directive
- Dilemma: Doctors see treatment as non-beneficial, burdensome
- Proxy is mother; 3 sisters; full code
- Resolved: patient moved nearer home



# Roles, Tasks of the HEC

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- Education
- Case Consultation
- Policy Development



# What HEC does not do

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- RX Consultation—this is the attending's decision
- HEC is not a sergeant-at-arms
- HEC is not a referral agency for attorneys



# Approaches to Clinical Ethics

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- Interdisciplinary
- Non-judgmental
- Conflict Resolution
- Consensus Building
- No treatment decisions
- Aim: assure proper decision maker, informed consent, non-coercive, consistent with law and stnds of care



# Composition of the HEC

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- Interdisciplinary, multi-professional:
- Physicians, nurses
- Hospital Administrators
- Risk Managers
- Attorneys
- Chaplains
- Philosophers/Theologians

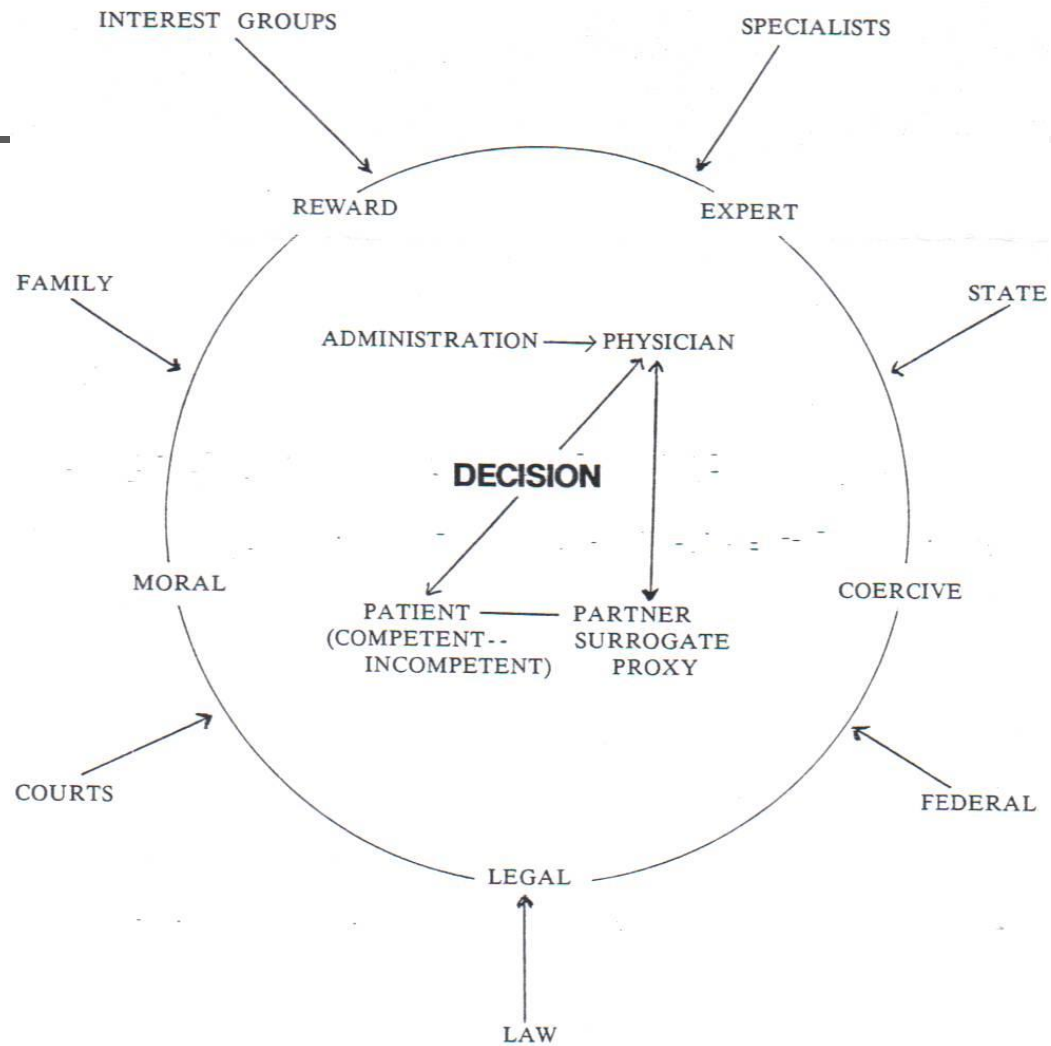


# A Schematic Perspective

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- Understanding the dynamics of Disagreements
- An Awareness of Authorities
- The Interplay of Power & Influence
- Agreements follow the best Insights for Patient Care
  - Patient Preferences
  - Patient Interests

# AUTHORITY IN CLINICAL DECISION MAKING





# Consults and Help on-line

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- Go to [www.uoflhealthcare.org](http://www.uoflhealthcare.org)
- Policies:
  - Brain Death: Definition, Determination
  - Care of the Dying Patient
  - Patient Autonomy
  - HIV Testing
- Physician Guidance
- “Paper” Consults



# Education: Staff and Public

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- Posted Guidelines
- Retreats: Faculty/Staff
- Grand Rounds
  - Family: Fri., 7:30 a.m. Bottigheimer Aud, Jewish Hospital
  - Other Learning Opportunities



# Other Educational Forums

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- Symposia
- Gheens Lectures
- Stambaugh Lecture Series
- Core Conferences
- Specialty Rounds



# The Right to Refuse Treatment

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- Karen Quinlan (1975)
  - Right to withdraw *ventilatory* support
- Baby Doe (IN) Univ Hospital
  - Parental authority re. damaged newborns
- Nancy Cruzan (1989)
  - right to refuse nutrition, hydration
- Patient Self-Determination Act (PSDA)
  - 1989 patient offered assistance with AD
  - State Law: variations on a theme (OR, WA)



# Procedure: when Discussions Reach Stalemate

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- Case Review
- Call for Consult from HEC
- Form, information on website
- Call may be from any person who is involved in the case: spouse, proxy, nurse, physician, et al.



# Request for Ethics Consult

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- Occasion: an impasse on ethics
  - Not all disagreements are ethical
  - Some are medical, pharmaceutical
- Placing the Call
  - Hospital Operator: 562-3000 24/7
  - Medical Staff Office: 562-3546
  - Consults: M.D., Ph.D., etc.



# At your Service

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- Consults on Call 24/7
  - Team consists of physician and non-MD
  - 1<sup>st</sup> call: 332-3369
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> call: 332-6612
- Others on Committee available
  - Attorneys
  - Physicians
  - Risk Manager
  - Chaplains



# Best Wishes from your HEC

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- May all your conflicts be small
- May your dilemmas be easily resolved
- May your residency be pleasant, productive and personally fulfilling
- May your Attending be Wise, Patient and Attentive