ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS FOLLOWING STROKE

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OBJECTIVES

- Identify at least two common situations in stroke rehabilitation that may involve ethical principles
- Identify a potential framework for recognizing and addressing ethical challenges
The Basis for Ethical Conflicts

- At least two conflicting ethical principles
- Belmont Report, 1979
  - Developed to provide guidelines for clinical research
  - Respect for persons
    - Autonomy, protection
    - May also include privacy and confidentiality
  - Beneficence
    - Also includes non-maleficence
  - Justice
    - Fairness in distribution
ADDITIONAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- Fidelity and Responsibility
  - Trust in professional relationships
  - Follow professional, scientific, and societal responsibilities
  - Awareness of scope of practice

- Integrity
  - Accuracy, honesty, and truth
POTENTIAL ETHICAL SITUATIONS

- Capacity or decision making
  - Informed consent for treatment, therapies, research
  - Must demonstrate comprehension and voluntariness of decision
  - The four “C’s” (Appelbaum & Grisso, 1988)
    - Communication of a choice
    - Comprehension of situation
    - Identifying the consequences
    - Explaining the reasoning
POTENTIAL ETHICAL SITUATIONS

- **Life sustaining treatment** (e.g., Asplund & Britton, 1989)
  - IV fluids
  - Ventilation
  - tPA
  - Dysphagia, tube feedings

- **Prognosis**

- **Advanced care directives** (e.g., Louw & Keeble, 2002)
  - Respect for individual autonomy but also capacity to determine wishes
  - Determination of application of AD or MPOA

- **Research**
  - Balance of risks and benefits
  - Inclusion criteria, consent
POTENTIAL ETHICAL SITUATIONS

- **Confidentiality in a rehabilitation setting** (e.g., Kirschner et al., 2001)
  - Treatment team
  - Insurance
  - Bystanders/family

- **Allocation of resources** (e.g., Kirschner et al., 2001)
  - May include equipment, time, fiscal

- **Discharge planning** (Hill & Filer, 2015)
  - For example, autonomy in decision making and caregivers’ ability for meet the needs
  - Safety reporting

- **Family issues**
  - Advance directives or lack thereof
  - Communication (e.g., Rochette et al., 2014)
  - Family member’s beliefs/wishes (e.g., Fritsch et al., 2013)
APPROACHES FOR ETHICAL CONFLICTS

- Identify a model to evaluate a situation
  - Seek information
  - Consider solutions, consequences, and risks
  - Implement the decision most likely to achieve goal and remain in keeping with ethical practices
  - Evaluate the outcome

Kerkhoff & Hanson, 2013
Kerhoff & Hanson Model

- Identify the situation
- Identify the ethical principles and concepts
- Identify the social context and the key stakeholders
- Address organizational and legal issues
- Develop potential solutions
- Evaluate the outcome

Kerkhoff & Hanson, 2013
REFERENCES