

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



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



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