

# Common Ethical Challenges in End of Life Care

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# Session Learning Objectives

- \* Discuss commonly held ethical principles
- \* Reflect upon your own ethical “world view”
- \* Become familiar with the “Four-box method” of ethical analysis and gain familiarity with applying the method to a real clinical case
- \* Reflect on “real world” ethical dilemmas and how they might be approached depending on a person’s ethical stance

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# Structure of this Session

- \* Ethics Overview – 10 minutes
- \* Break into small groups to discuss case using “Four Box Method” – 20 minutes
- \* Get back together in large group to discuss the case – 10 minutes
- \* Wrap up – 5 minutes

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# Core Four Ethical Perspectives

- \* Principles
- \* Consequences
- \* Virtues / Character
- \* Moral Sentiment

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# Questions to Ponder

- \* Life sustaining therapy should be withdrawn in futile cases
  - \* Strongly agree
  - \* Agree
  - \* Neutral
  - \* Disagree
  - \* Strongly Disagree

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# Questions to Ponder

- \* It is morally wrong to withdraw life sustaining therapy, even in futile cases
  - \* Strongly agree
  - \* Agree
  - \* Neutral
  - \* Disagree
  - \* Strongly Disagree

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# Questions to Ponder

- \* Miracles do not happen, and waiting for one is naive
  - \* Strongly agree
  - \* Agree
  - \* Neutral
  - \* Disagree
  - \* Strongly Disagree

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# Questions to Ponder

- \* Miracles can happen, and it is reasonable to hold out for one
  - \* Strongly agree
  - \* Agree
  - \* Neutral
  - \* Disagree
  - \* Strongly Disagree

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# Questions to Ponder

- \* Faith-healing should never be an alternative to Western medicine
  - \* Strongly agree
  - \* Agree
  - \* Neutral
  - \* Disagree
  - \* Strongly Disagree

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# Questions to Ponder

- \* Faith-healing can heal and should be considered a viable alternative to Western medicine
  - \* Strongly agree
  - \* Agree
  - \* Neutral
  - \* Disagree
  - \* Strongly Disagree

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# The Four Box Method

Medical Indication	Patient Preferences
Quality of Life	Contextual Features

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# The Four Box Method

Medical Indication (Benefit / Harm)	Patient Preferences (Autonomy)
Quality of Life (Benefit, Harm, Autonomy)	Contextual Features (Justice)

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# Small Groups

- \* Your table is your small group
- \* Read the case aloud in your group and choose a scribe and a spokesperson
- \* Go through the 4 box method and record your discussion regarding each element
  - \* Decide what the ethical question is
  - \* Your table will be assigned one box to focus on
  - \* Come up with one – two options
- \* Be prepared to discuss in larger group

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