

Ethics Case Conference Assignment

Instructions:

Your assignment is to write a one page maximum summary of a case you have observed during the Geriatrics Clerkship that raises ethical questions or issues about medical care for an older adult. If there are legal implications in this case, discuss those as well. Be sure to include a clear, concise statement of the ethical issue, as well as a summary of the important clinical facts in the case.

In your write-up, analyze the ethical (and legal, where applicable) issue in your case and the impact you think the case will have on your development into a physician and on your practice as a future physician. The goal of this assignment is to think broadly about the impact of an ethical issue, not whether or not it can or cannot be resolved, so both poorly addressed and properly addressed cases are excellent topics to bring up for analysis and discussion. In your case summary, include a discussion of how the case was resolved and whether you believe a different outcome would have been optimal.

Please do not include patient identifiers or physician names in your write-up.

If you have any questions about this assignment, or if you have difficulty finding an appropriate case to present, contact Bernie Amaro, Academic Assistant in the Program in Bioethics, Law & Medical Professionalism (273-5155) for assistance.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify ethical issues arising in care of older adults
2. Analyze ethical issues arising in care of older adults
3. Discuss legal implications of ethical issues arising in care of older adults
4. Describe the impact the selected cases will have on medical students as learners and as future physicians