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(60 minutes)

Medical Ethics and End-of-Life Decisions

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AMA PRA CATEGORY 1: UP TO 2 CREDITS

This activity is designed for primary care physicians and other healthcare professionals who are involved in medical decision making.

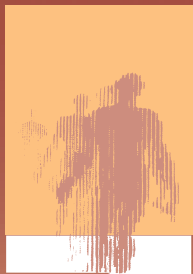
CME CREDIT DESIGNATIONS

ACCME The Network for Continuing Medical Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA NCME designates this educational activity for a maximum of 2 category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the activity.

AAFP This activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 1 Prescribed credit by the American Academy of Family Physicians. *Term of approval is for one year from beginning distribution date of July 7, 2005, with option for yearly renewal.*

AOA This activity is eligible for up to 2 hours of credit in category 2-A of the American Osteopathic Association.



NCME

VHS & DVD

Medical Ethics and End-of-Life Decisions

Medical ethics encompasses a broad range of difficult clinical issues and decisions. Some of these issues, such as embryonic research, in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping, deal with the beginning of life. Others, such as those involving informed consent, organ donation, and human experimentation, can occur at any time during life. End-of-life decisions, including withdrawing and withholding treatment, euthanasia, and advance directives, comprise a significant and especially challenging part of medical ethics. In this program, Dr. William Matory interviews Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, a world-renowned spokesman on ethics and the medical profession. Dr. Pellegrino addresses end-of-life and other difficult decisions faced by physicians and other healthcare professionals in caring for patients, and provides clinically and morally sound advice, based on his belief in the moral nature of medicine and the ethical obligations of physicians.

AMA PRA Category 1: Up to 2 Credits

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After taking part in this activity, participants should be able to:

- list the major medical issues that occur at the beginning of life, throughout life, and at the end of life;
- define the terms vegetative state, futility, and ordinary versus extraordinary care in the context of medical ethics;
- identify the physician's role and the role of courts in end-of-life decisions;
- examine the role of ethical consultations in medical decision making; and
- incorporate the principles of medical ethics, including patient autonomy and physician responsibility, into patient management decisions.

SUGGESTED READING

- DuVal G, Clarridge B, Gensler G, Danis M. A national survey of US internists' experiences with ethical dilemmas and ethics consultation. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2004;19:251-258.
- Forrest D, Barrett J. Ethical pitfalls can be hard to avoid [comment]. *BMJ.* 2004;329:399-400.
- Hurst SA. When patients refuse assessment of decision-making capacity: how should clinicians respond? *Arch Intern Med.* 2004;164:1757-1760.
- Lo B. Answers and questions about ethics consultations [editorial]. *JAMA.* 2003;290:1208-1210.
- Parker MJ. Getting ethics into practice [editorial]. *BMJ.* 2004;329:126.
- Pellegrino ED. The metamorphosis of medical ethics. A 30-year retrospective. *JAMA.* 1993;269:1158-1162.
- Pellegrino ED, Caplan A, Goold SD. Doctors and ethics, morals and manuals [editorial]. *Ann Intern Med.* 1998;128:569-571.