

# Example of essay on ethical analysis

[Experience](#), [Belief](#)



## **Abstract**

Working in a multicultural health care setting calls for a workforce that clearly understand the ethical and legal considerations that exist in relation to culture, beliefs, background, as well as knowledge. While physician and nurses have the upper hand in ensuring quality health care as well as life sustaining measures, the patient holds a very critical role in dictating the care procedures that they prefer. Bioethics studies have had differing approaches to the issue of making informed consent to health care procedures. However, there is one thing that remains untouched. The greatest responsibility is the life of the patients and the satisfaction of the physician or health care provider. To sort out these ethical issues that have historically proved controversial, there is a need to understand the role of religion, culture, ethnic background and beliefs in health care. This would give the stakeholders in health care a chance to determine the best approaches that would reflect a culture sensitive system by facilitating effective communication. Communication is a core aspect of health care.

In the case of Mrs. Wang, there are several ethical issues all related to culture and background. They manifest themselves through decisions made by Mrs. Wang's son, Chun-Ying, who at the time acts as an intermediary and sole decision maker in regard to Mrs. Wang's health situation. In this case, and due to the limitations placed by language, the physician had few alternatives. In the first one, they could all in all disregard Chun-Ying's decisions and provide the required procedures to help save the life of Mrs. Wang. This, however, could be contrary to the professional conduct of three

physicians as well as a legal case in matters of patient's rights, in decision making. On the other hand, the physicians had to rely on Chun-Ying's decisions. This would have been in line with the ethical, professional and legal procedures in health care. On the other hand, it would have compromised the reality that health care [providers have the responsibility of ensuring prolonged life and quality health care for all patients within the facility. Higher chances would have been a decline in Mrs. Wang's health which would have created new complications.

In my personal view, the greatest consideration would have been given on the Chun-Ying's decisions. While it is the physician's motivation to see the outcome reflect their professional competence, culture defines the procedures in health care. When a patient's decisions or those of their relatives are not placed into consideration, the outcome may be professionally good but patients tend to lose confidence in such health care system. Despite the need to offer quality health care, as a physician, one should consider the cultural barriers and solve them in a way that only reflects and respects the patient's preferences.

## **Introduction**

### Outcomes

Ethical dilemma in a multicultural health care environment is an issue that seems not to go away. While cultural competence has all along been advocated as a solution to this menace, there have been no consistent plans or best practices that have been formulated to sort out this issue. In this case, the autonomy of the patient in making decisions regarding their health and the preferred procedures has always taken the health sector into ethical

dilemmas. In a bid to ensure patient's outcome is improved, the cultural and social barriers may be an impediment. Warne, in his article "Policy Issues, in American Indian Health Governance" provides an overview of the importance of giving special preference to multicultural setting in health care.

In this article, Warne discusses the role that tribal control of health care facilities in Indian Health Systems has played a big role in ensuring patient satisfaction, as well as improved outcomes. Pfa" fflin et al., in their article argues that effective, ethical considerations are possible if health care systems consider a four structured implementation of health care procedures. These procedures include a structural-oriented system, a content-oriented system, a process-oriented system and outcome-oriented systems. The structural-oriented system will be effective in ensuring that an ethical dilemma is easily identifiable. The content-oriented system will facilitate the making proper decisions as to who should participate in the decision making process.

The process -oriented approach ensures that every participant within the decision main process is given a fair chance to be heard or voice their opinion on the ethical case. On the other hand, the outcome-oriented approach takes into consideration the outcome as governed by the preferences and values discussed in decision making.

Cultural beliefs and thus the background must not be assumed as part of the entities that define health care procedures. They should be considered as the core principles that health care providers take into consideration. A multicultural setting means that there are times when the patient and the physician cannot adequately communicate. Communication is a vital

element in health care. It defines the efficacy of prognosis as well as diagnosis. When an intermediary is used in such cases, there are higher chances that some element of prognosis and diagnosis will be compromised. Smelly, when the intermediary is a close associate, such as a relative or family member to the patient, the cultural beliefs may still turn out to be a barrier in administration of effective procedures.

William E. Stempsey in his article “ Bioethics Needs Religion” articulates on the changes we should have in the bioethics sector. This is inclusive of both medicine sectors, nursing and health care in general in his article, Stempsey reveals that we all hold false religious beliefs that we help shape our society as well as sort out the problems that encompass human life. In this regard, the author considers that no matter what religion one is entrenched in, they should be given a chance that respects their religious beliefs without stereotyping them on the basis of indecent religious beliefs. The diversity of religious beliefs in the world, today, means that we health care systems have to adopt a standard approach that will take into consideration the religious boundaries of health care.

Similarly, ethnic backgrounds form a critical part of the considerations of developing effective health care systems. In the African context for instance, there are societal attachments and beliefs that would limit the context of a patient to certain prognosis and diagnosis procedures. In this perspective, a moral facet that entails the African context should be used as a guideline to handle patients of African background. This facet should involve informed consents for the patients so that whichever the decision, there are higher chances of making the best decision. The role of the physician or any other

health care provider is to ensure that there is a mutual attachment to the patient. Through this, the physician can build the confidence level with the patient, and this would translate into imparting knowledge to the patient. The patient would thus be able to use this knowledge in making the best possibly decisions. This would effectively avert the difficulties that come with ethical dilemmas associated to background and cultural beliefs.

## **Conclusion**

The issue of bioethics is controversial in all aspects. The professional and legal implications that come with it are deep and unavoidable where there are no effective measures to combat them. However, it is important to note that these measures cannot be based on just the professional conduct of health care providers. There are several issues that must be sorted out to ensure that there is no compromise on the health care quality deciphered to the population.

One of the critical considerations that all stakeholders within the health sector should consider is the changing the health care systems to suit the diversity of the population they serve. This begins with cultural and language related measures. Such would revolve around having a diverse health care system well as giving the community a higher control of the health care systems. This imparts in them a sense of ownership of the facility that translates to contentment of the patient when being served. Population-based approaches destined to ensure a greater role of the patient in health care should be taken. This involves an organizational policy designed to inform the patient that their decisions regarding vital health care decision is

final. However, the physician has a role to inform on plausible decisions to facilitate making informed consent.

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