

Ethical issues in health care

[Health & Medicine](#)



In this case an appalation patient in a health care facility wishes to stop treatment for the stage four cancers. His family insists that he should be treated for the diseases and this brings a conflict between the nurse, family and the patient. This conflict will only be solved when a committee is formed. The committee will consist of the family member's doctor and the patient. The committee will follow the ethical decision making process which will include:

I.

The Four Principles which will be used provide a general guide and leave considerable room for judgement in specific cases.

Respect for autonomy:

respecting the decision-making capacities of autonomous persons; enabling individuals to make reasoned informed choices.

Beneficence:

balancing benefits of treatment against the risks and costs; the healthcare professional should act in a way that benefits the patient.

Non maleficence:

avoiding causing harm; the healthcare professional should not harm the patient. Most treatment involves some harm, even if minimal, but the harm should not be disproportionate to the benefits of the treatment.

Justice:

respect for justice takes several forms:

Distribution of a fair share of benefits

Legal justice - doing what the law says

Rights based justice, which deals in the language, and perhaps the rhetoric,

of claimed human rights, and hence goes beyond, though it includes, legal rights.