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***We care about our patients***



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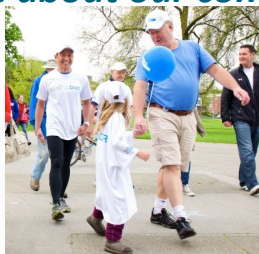
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***We care about our community***



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***What You Should Know  
About Medical Ethics***

- 1. Why ethics matters*
- 2. Understanding ethical principles*
- 3. Preventive ethics*

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**An Ethics Quiz**

1. **Bioethics** relates to:

- a. telling the truth in a celebrity biography

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**An Ethics Quiz**

1. **Bioethics** relates to:

- a. telling the truth in a celebrity biography
- b. treating animals humanely

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**An Ethics Quiz**

1. **Bioethics** relates to:

- a. telling the truth in a celebrity biography
- b. treating animals humanely, or
- c. medical ethics

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**Answer:**

- **C. Medical ethics** is the application of ethical principles to health care ...

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**Principles of Bioethics**

Nonmaleficence: Do no harm.  
Beneficence: Do good.  
Autonomy: Respect patients' choices.  
Justice: Be fair. Treat like cases alike.  
Confidentiality: Respecting personal information.

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**Applying the Principles**

Dilemmas arise in cases where the principles conflict

*e.g. Respecting an individual's autonomy when they are at risk to themselves or others*

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**Applying the Principles**  
A treatment is considered appropriate if the potential benefits outweigh the potential burdens.

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**Applying the Principles**  
Life support (e.g. CPR, artificial feeding, ventilation) is appropriate if it provides an acceptable quality of life (as judged from the patient's perspective).

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**Question 2**  
• True or false?  
  
Bioethics has more to do with philosophy than with the day-to-day work of healthcare.

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**Answer:**

- False.

*Medical ethics is the foundation of medicine . . .*

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*Our tests and treatments are merely tools.  
Ethics guides us in their appropriate use.*

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**Question 3**

**Autonomy** is:

- a. The economics of the automobile industry,

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**Question 3**

Autonomy is:

- a. The economics of the automobile industry,
- b. A Tomorrowland attraction in Disneyland where kids can drive futuristic cars oddly powered by gasoline engines, . . .

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**Question 3**



Autonomy is:

- a. The economics of the automobile industry,
- b. A Tomorrowland attraction in Disneyland where kids can drive futuristic cars oddly powered by gasoline engines, or

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**Question 3**

Autonomy is:

- a. The economics of the automobile industry,
- b. A Tomorrowland attraction in Disneyland where kids can drive futuristic cars oddly powered by gasoline engines, or
- c. The ability to make independent decisions.

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**Answer:**

- **C. *Autonomy*** is the ability to make independent decisions.

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**Question 4**

The single greatest threat to your autonomy is:

- a. The health care system,

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**Question 4**

The single greatest threat to your autonomy is:

- a. The health care system,
- b. Big Brother,

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**Question 4**

The single greatest threat to your autonomy is:

- a. The health care system,
- b. Big Brother,
- c. Doctors and nurses,

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**Question 4**

The single greatest threat to your autonomy is:

- a. The health care system,
- b. Big Brother,
- c. Doctors and nurses, or
- d. Your family.

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**Answer:**

- D. If you were in a condition such that you were no longer capable of directing your own healthcare decisions  
 AND you did not make it clear what your preferences would be,  
 family members may be in conflict with one another OR they may decide what *they* want rather than what *you* would want.

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**Final Question**  
True or false?  
  
Most ethical dilemmas are unavoidable.

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**Answer:**  
● FALSE.  
With proactive reflection and discussion,  
you can make your choices clear.

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**Why Ethics Matters**  
*Isn't ethics just abstract philosophy  
for students, academics and older people?*



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**Analogy: Pondering the meaning of life**



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**Analogy: Pondering the meaning of life**

*Most people don't reflect on the meaning of life, their values and life's purpose . . .*

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**Analogy: Pondering the meaning of life**

*until a crisis arises or they reach a crossroads (loss, midlife & the end of life)*

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**Analogy: Using a map  
on your road trip**



A map of Southern British Columbia, Canada, showing a network of roads in red and yellow. The map is labeled 'Southern British Columbia' in the bottom left corner.

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**Analogy: Using a map  
on your road trip**

*If we drive without a map (or GPS),  
we can get distracted by detours,  
accidents, breakdowns, other drivers and  
the people we're travelling with . . .*

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*We may find ourselves lost  
and far from our destination . . .*

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*We may find ourselves lost  
and far from our destination . . .  
  
and some of us are less inclined  
to ask for directions.*

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***Why Ethics Matters:  
Everyday Ethics***  
*Ethics applies every time you interact  
with a healthcare provider*

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***Everyday Ethics***  
*Confidentiality in the Doctor's Office*  
*A mother might ask if her daughter  
came in earlier today and wonder what  
she discussed with the doctor.*

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**Everyday Ethics**  
*Confidentiality in the Doctor's Office*  
A concerned family member might call and ask about the details of a patient's medical condition.

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**Everyday Ethics**  
*Informed Consent in the Office*  
A test – including a simple blood test – cannot be ordered without your clear consent.

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**Everyday Ethics**  
*Informed Consent in the Office*  
Do you have the key information you need to make decisions about treatment?

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**The Principles of Medical Ethics**

1. BENEFICENCE
2. NON-MALEFICENCE
3. JUSTICE
4. CONFIDENTIALITY
5. AUTONOMY

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**BENEFICENCE**

DO GOOD

*The primary goal of medicine is to help the individual patient*

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**NONMALEFICENCE**

DO NO HARM

*The 1<sup>st</sup> rule of medicine*

*“Above all else, do no harm.”*

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**JUSTICE**  
TREAT LIKE CASES ALIKE  
*Be fair*

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**My Golden Rule of Medicine**  
*Treat every patient with the same care and consideration I would expect for a best friend and family member.*

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**CONFIDENTIALITY**  
*Respecting a patient's private information*

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**Why confidentiality is important**  
*If there was no assurance of privacy, the patient will not share all the information the physician requires to provide the best care.*

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**When can confidentiality be breached?**  
**DUTY TO PROTECT**  
*When you pose a serious threat to others.*

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**When can confidentiality be breached?**  
**DUTY TO REPORT**  
*Unsafe Drivers, Child Protection, certain sexually transmitted infections*

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**When can confidentiality be breached?**  
COURT ORDER

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**When can confidentiality be breached?**  
Minors and others who rely on others to provide consent

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**Who has access to your records?**

1. Your physician and professional staff
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (insurance companies, lawyers) with your written consent (or by court order)
3. Other healthcare providers involved in your care (your hospital team, specialists to whom you are referred)

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**AUTONOMY**  
*The right of the capable individual to direct his or her own healthcare*

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**AUTONOMY**  
*You have the right to refuse any treatment*  
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**AUTONOMY**  
*But you don't have the right to demand treatment that is inappropriate or not available*

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**Informed Consent**

2 Keys:

- (1) enough information
- (2) a patient capable of understanding that information and making an informed decision

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**Informed Consent**

You need **enough information** about the benefits, risks and alternatives of a test, procedure or drug before you can choose or refuse it.

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**Informed Consent**

Due to illness or incapacity, you may not be able to give informed consent.

Who will decide on your behalf?

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**Medical Ethics in the Hospital**  
 When I chaired Burnaby Hospital's Ethical Resources Committee, we consulted on ethical dilemmas faced by patients, their families and healthcare teams.

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**Medical Ethics in the Hospital**  
 All of the patients were no longer capable of independent medical decision-making (e.g. unconsciousness, severe dementia). It was not clear what the patient would have chosen. Family members and healthcare providers were in conflict.

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**Medical Ethics in the Hospital**  
 "The road to hell . . . is paved with good intentions."  
 John Milton

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**Medical Ethics in the Hospital**  
*"The road to ICU . . .  
is paved with clinical practice guidelines."  
Davidicus Wong*

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**Medical Ethics in the Hospital**  
*"The road to ICU . . .  
is paved with clinical practice guidelines."  
Our treatments and tests are the tools of  
medicine; ethics guides us in their  
appropriate use.*

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**Medical Ethics in the Hospital**  
*We would review the relevant ethical  
principles  
then step back to see the whole patient,  
looking at not only the **medical** facts but  
also **personal** and **social** factors.*

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**Medical Ethics in the Hospital**  
 MEDICAL FACTS  
*Past medical history*  
*Current medical situation – diagnosis, prognosis (what is expected)*  
*Treatment options (risks and benefits)*

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**Medical Ethics in the Hospital**  
 PERSONAL FACTORS  
*Personal preferences – values, religious and cultural beliefs, sense of meaning*  
*What does quality of life mean to the individual?*  
*Advance Medical Directives*

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**Medical Ethics in the Hospital**  
 SOCIAL FACTORS  
*The views of friends and family*  
*Who else will be affected?*

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## *Medical Assistance in Dying*

**Who is eligible for MAiD?**

- generally, visitors to Canada are not eligible for medical assistance in dying
- be at least 18 years old and mentally competent (capable of making health care decisions for yourself)
- have a [grievous and irremediable medical condition](#)
- make a voluntary request for MAiD that is not the result of outside pressure or influence
- give [informed consent](#) to receive MAiD

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## *Grievous and Irremediable Medical Condition*

You must:

- have a serious illness, disease or disability (excluding a mental illness until March 2027)
- be in an advanced state of decline that **cannot** be reversed
- experience unbearable physical or mental suffering from your illness, disease, disability or state of decline that **cannot** be relieved under conditions that you consider acceptable

You do **not** need to have a fatal or terminal condition to be

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## *Informed Consent*

To be eligible, you must provide informed consent to your practitioner. This means you have consented (given permission) to MAiD **after** you have received all of the information you need to make your decision, including:

- your medical diagnosis
- available forms of treatment
- available options to relieve suffering, including palliative care

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**Informed Consent**

You must be able to give informed consent both:

- at the time of your request
- immediately before MAiD is provided unless special circumstances apply (see [Waiver of Final Consent](#)).

You can withdraw your consent at any time and in any manner.

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**Waiver of Final Consent**

Canada's medical assistance in dying law allows you to waive the requirement for giving final consent just before MAiD is provided, only if:

- your [natural death is reasonably foreseeable](#)

AND

- while you had decision-making capacity:
  - you were assessed and approved to receive MAiD
  - your practitioner advised that you are at risk of losing capacity to provide final consent
  - you made a written arrangement with your practitioner in which you consent in advance to receive MAiD on your chosen date if you no longer have capacity to consent on that date

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**MAiD for persons suffering solely from a mental illness**

On March 9, 2023, Bill C-39 received Royal Assent and officially postponed the eligibility date for persons suffering solely from a mental illness until March 17, 2024 but this has been delayed until March 2027

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**Waiver of Final Consent**

Any arrangement for the waiver of final consent will be considered **invalid** if, at the time that MAiD is to be provided, you no longer have capacity and you **demonstrate refusal or resistance** to the administration of MAiD **by words, sounds or gestures.**

*For further clarity, reflexes and other types of involuntary movements, such as response to touch or the insertion of a needle, would not constitute refusal or resistance.*

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**Preventive Bioethics**

*“The kingdom of heaven is everywhere but men do not see it.”*

*Jesus of Nazareth*

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**Preventive Bioethics**

*“Ethics is everywhere. We just don’t see it.”*

*Davidicus Wong*

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**Preventive Bioethics**  
1. Anticipate the future when you may be incapable and suffering from serious illness.

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**Preventive Bioethics**  
2. Understand the benefits & burdens of CPR, artificial feeding & artificial ventilation.

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**Preventive Bioethics**  
3. Consider what gives your life meaning and what constitutes a good quality of life.

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**Preventive Bioethics**

4. Communicate your values and your wishes while you can.  
Ensure your family knows what you would want.

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**Advance Directives**

A statement of your preferences for medical care to be referred to when you are unable to make your own decisions

*What procedures do you want?*  
*What procedures do you refuse?*  
*Under what conditions?*  
*Who do you choose to make decisions for you?*

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**Advance Directives**

You may not wish to have CPR (chest compressions, assisted breathing, intubation, defibrillation) if you had an irreversible, terminal condition with no hope for a return to an acceptable quality of life.

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**Advance Directives**  
 You may not wish to be on mechanical life support if you were in a persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery.

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**Advance Directives**  
 Always plan in advance.  
 Talk it over with your family and friends.  
 Choose someone you would trust to respect your preferences.  
 Inform your family doctor.  
 Put it in writing.

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**Advance Directives**  
 My Voice



Advance Care Planning Guide

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### Advance Directives

Some simpler examples . . .



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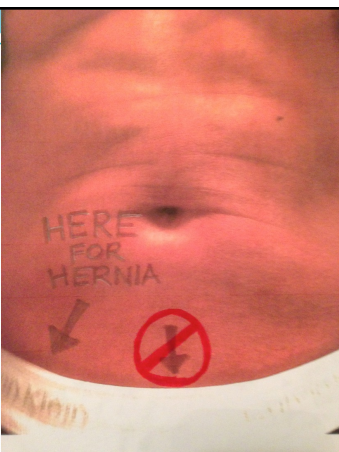
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Here for hernia  
not a vasectomy



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