

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – PLEVEN
FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

METHOD FOR ETHICAL CASE ANALYSIS

1. Determination of the moral problem(s) – should be impartial (don't take any side from the very beginning). Preferable styles – simple question (e.g. Whether the physician has the right to....? Whose preferences the physician should satisfy? etc.), conflict between principles (e.g. In my view in this case we have a conflict between the principle of interpreted as and the principle of..... requiring), simple definition of the area of ethics under question (e.g. In my view in this case we have a problem related to informed consent...or related to confidentiality....).

The definition of the moral problem should be done from the point of view of the physician involved in the case – in the way this problem is presented to the physician (What he should decide?)

2. Description of relevant facts:

- **Medical dimension** – all medical data available in the case + relevant other medical data that could throw light on the problem solution. You are allowed to ask open questions, if you don't know the answers because of the lack of information or lack of medical knowledge in your second year of medical education.
- **Patient's values** - religious or other values stated in the case or understandable from the information in the case
- **Organizational dimension** – how the things are in practice; international and national ethical documents concerning the moral problem, law regarding the problem

3. Ethical discussion (application of ethical theories; Principlism)

- Respect for autonomy of the patient – Is the patient in the case autonomous?
 - If No, who should take decisions instead of him? – Suggestion about solution of the problem
 - If Yes – What does it mean to respect the autonomy of the patient in our case in relation to the defined problem?
- Beneficence – What is “good” for the patient in the case? – Define as many as possible ideas of “good” – medical good, social good, religious good etc. – What decision will follow from each idea of good?
- Non-maleficence
- Justice – non-discrimination, equal treatment to patients

4. Ethical decision – in the form of advice or recommendation.

Should be concrete, logically following from the discussion and practical.