

Introductions and Forced Medical Treatment

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

1-1 Discussion: Introductions and Forced Medical Treatment

Hello, everyone. My name is Alex. My interests span from exploring ethical dilemmas in healthcare to engaging in community service initiatives. I aspire to work in healthcare administration, where I can contribute to ethical policymaking and improve patient care systems.

People usually do not know that I am an avid rock climber, having scaled some of the most challenging routes in my state and having a passion for painting, with a particular interest in surrealist art. These hobbies provide a balanced life, merging physical activity with creative expression.

For a professional setting, I have chosen a recent picture of me attending a healthcare conference, which highlights my commitment to my field.

If my life were portrayed in a movie, I believe Natalie Portman would be the ideal actor. Her ability to portray strong, intelligent characters resonates with my personality and career aspirations. Additionally, her versatility as an actress reflects the multifaceted nature of my interests and experiences.

Ethical Analysis of a Medical Case

The NPR article "Can Connecticut Force a Teenage Girl to Undergo Chemotherapy?" presents a complex ethical dilemma. The Connecticut Supreme Court forced a 17-year-old girl named Cassandra to undergo chemotherapy against her will. This case focuses on several ethical principles, such as autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice.

Autonomy, the right of patients to make their own decisions, is a cornerstone of medical ethics. However, in this case, the court deemed Cassandra's refusal as not fully informed due to her age and the potential influence of her mother. Beneficence, the principle of acting in the best interest of the patient, supports the medical team's decision, as chemotherapy is crucial for her

survival. Non-maleficence, the obligation to not harm, aligns with administering life-saving treatment despite the patient's refusal. Lastly, justice, which emphasizes fairness and equality, was served by ensuring Cassandra received the necessary medical care.

After reviewing the relevant ethical theories and principles, I conclude that the medical team's decision was ethical. The principle of beneficence justified overriding Cassandra's autonomy, as her life was at significant risk without treatment. Furthermore, from a legal perspective, minors are often not granted full autonomy in medical decisions, especially in life-threatening situations. This ethical stance is supported by the necessity to prevent harm and act in the patient's best interest, aligning with legal standards and ethical principles.

Peer Responses

Response 01

Hi Alex, great post! Your analysis of Cassandra's case clearly illustrates the ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice. One area you could expand on is the potential long-term implications of such decisions on patient trust. As a fellow healthcare enthusiast, I find these dilemmas fascinating and complex.

Response 02

Responding to peers is vital to the PHIL 210 Module One discussion posts. We need to provide at least two peer responses. I will provide one example post. You can write your peer responses keeping the above points in mind.