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Complex Ethics Consultations

Cases that Haunt Us

Volume 1

2nd edition

Edited by:

Paul J. Ford

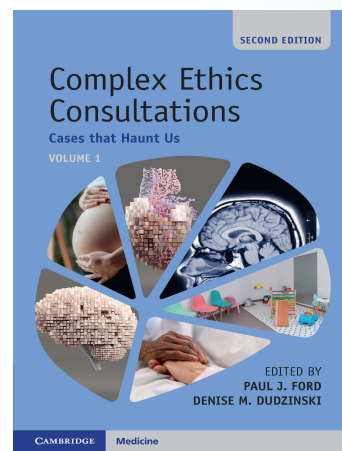
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland

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Clinical ethics consultants navigate dilemmas across patient care, public health, and healthcare policy. Issues span from the beginning to the end of life, complex discharges, employment of novel technologies, and visitation restrictions. The second edition relays the narratives of fraught, complex consultations through richly detailed cases. Authors explore the ethical reasoning, professional issues, and emotional aspects of these impossibly difficult scenarios. Describing the affective aspects of ethics consultations, authors highlight the lasting effects of these cases on their practices. They candidly reflect on evolving professional practice as well as contemporary concerns and innovations while attending to equity and inclusivity. Featuring many new chapters, cases are grouped together by theme to aid teaching, discussion, and professional growth. The book is intended for clinicians, bioethicists, and ethics committee members with an interest in the choices made in real-life medical dilemmas as well as the emotional cost to those working to improve the situations.

Introduction: live and learn: courage, honesty, and vulnerability; Part I. Starting at the Beginning: Prenatal and Neonatal Issues: 1. Quality of life – and of ethics consultation – in the NICU; 2. When a baby dies in pain; 3. But how can we choose?; 4. Maternal-fetal surgery and the “profoundest questions in ethics”; Commentary 1. Reflections on Part I; Part II. The Most Vulnerable of Us: Pediatrics: 5. She was the life of the party; 6. The sound of chains; 7. Susie's voice; 8. Access to an infant's family: lingering effects of not talking with parents; Commentary 2. Reflections on Part II; Part III. Diversity of Desires and Limits of Liberty: Psychiatric and Psychological Issues: 9. Helping staff help a “hateful” patient: The case of TJ; 10. Ulysses contract; 11. Misjudging needs; 12. When the patient refuses to eat; Commentary 3. Reflections on Part III; Part IV. Withholding Therapy with a Twist: 13. Listening to the husband; 14. You're the ethicist; I'm just the surgeon; 15. Haunted by a good outcome: the case of Sister Jane; 16. Is a broken jaw a terminal condition; Commentary 4. Reflections on Part IV; Part V. The Unspeakable/Unassailable: Religious and Cultural Beliefs: 17. Adolescent pregnancy, confidentiality, and culture; 18. ‘Tanya, the one with Jonathan's kidney’: a living unrelated donor case of church associates; 19. Futility, Islam, and death; 20. Suffering as God's will; Commentary 5: Reflections on Part V: The Unspeakable/ Unassailable: Religious and Cultural Beliefs; Part VI. Human Guinea Pigs and Miracles: Clinical Innovations and Unorthodox Treatment: 21. Amputate my arm, please. I don't want it anymore; 22. Feuding surrogates, herbal therapies, and a dying patient; 23. One way out: destination therapy by default; 24. Altruistic organ donation: Credible? Acceptable?; Commentary 6: Reflections on Part VI: Human Guinea Pigs and Miracles: Clinical Innovations and Unorthodox Treatment; Part VII. The Big Picture: Organizational Issues: 25. It's not my responsibility; 26. Intra-operative exposure to sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease: to disclose or not to disclose; 27. Why do we have to discharge this patient?; 28. Who's that sleeping in my bed? An institutional response to an organizational ethics problem; Commentary 7: Reflections on Part VII; Conclusions, educational activities, and references; Index.



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‘This rich anthology reminds us that clinical case consultation is a complicated process that is personal and intuitive, often haunting practitioners with memories that are both disturbing and instructive. Professors Ford and Dudzinski have brilliantly capitalized on the pedagogical value of these musings, editing a volume that will enrich teaching in the seminar room or at the bedside. This new edition places the current generation of practitioners into conversation with their pioneering predecessors from the first edition, reminding readers of the enduring values that should inform case consultation. This volume belongs in the library of every student and teacher of bioethics.’

Joseph J. Fins,
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