Ethical Issues in Pharmacy Practice
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I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.
Objectives

- Describe a strategy for making an ethically-based decision.
- Differentiate ways that individuals can suffer.
- Assess the difference between the biomedical good of a patient and the subjective good of that same patient.
Imagine, if you will...
Imagine, if you will...
Imagine, if you will...
What do you do?
What should you do?
What should you do?

You can get it done.
What should you do?

You can get it done.

It is your job!
What should you do?

You can get it done.

It is your job!

The action is legal.
What should you do?

- You can get it done.
- It is your job!
- We are doing a good thing by helping.
- The action is legal.
What should you do?

You can get it done.  It is your job!

We are doing a good thing by helping.  The action is legal.

Duty to Care
General Principles of Biomedical Ethics

- Respect for Autonomy
- Justice
- Beneficence
- Non-maleficence
An Ethical Decision Making Model

Bruce Weinstein, PhD & Alvin Moss, MD

Clarify the Facts
Clarify the Values
Determine the Options
Choose an Option
Ethically Defensible Choice
But, what if something gets in the way?
Moral Distress

- First defined by Andrew Jameton in 1984
- Moral distress: the inability of a moral agent to act according to his or her core values and perceived obligations due to internal and external constraints.
- Causes, Factors and Effects

Looking at Everyday Nursing*

Causes: poor quality and futile care, unsuccessful advocacy, raising unrealistic hope

Factors: staff education level, peer support, educational level / experience

Effects: mixed with respect to positive or negative impact on care, reduced job satisfaction

Experienced at least once within the past 6 months -

- Ethically troubling interaction with a professional from another discipline: 60%
- Any situation that didn't seem quite right from an ethical perspective: 50%
- Conflict with policy that prevented doing the right thing: 30%
- Directive from supervisor that raised ethical concern: 20%
Can you name this philosopher?
Aristotle
“The man who shuns and fears everything and never stands his ground becomes a coward, whereas a man who knows no fear at all and goes to meet every danger becomes reckless.”

- Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, II 2. 1104a20-23
One Definition of Moral Courage*

Presence and recognition of a moral situation  
Moral choice  
Behavior  
Individuality  
Fear

Attributes of the morally courageous leader

- Greater confidence in principles than in personality
- Higher tolerance for ambiguity, exposure and personal loss
- Acceptance of deferred gratification & simple rewards
- Independence of thought
- Formidable persistence and determination
The case of Judy
Our Ethical Decision Making Model: What are the facts and values at play?

Clarify the Facts → Clarify the Values → Determine the Options

Choose an Option → Ethically Defensible Choice
Suffering

Pathophysiology-based

- Acute care
- Chronic care
- Long term care
Suffering

Pathophysiology-based

- Acute care
- Chronic care
- Long term care

Spiritual-based

- Our broken, fractured self
- Our broken state in a spiritual sense
Suffering

Pathophysiology-based
- Acute care
- Chronic care
- Long term care

Spiritual-based
- Our broken, fractured self
- Our broken state in a spiritual sense

“...we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” Romans 8:17 (ESV)
How should a pharmacist act?
The balance required by the Christian Pharmacist.
So, let’s revise our question... how should a Christian pharmacist act?
...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
...if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.
So, we return again to the question...how should a Christian pharmacist act?
Thank you!