

1994

The Ethics of Health Care

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Recommended Citation

Pittman, Mildred R.N., Ed.D. (1994) "The Ethics of Health Care," *Journal of Health Occupations Education*: Vol. 9 : No. 2 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/jhoe/vol9/iss2/9>

The Ethics of Health Care. Raymond S. Edge and John Randall Groves.

Delmar Publishers. Albany, New York, 1994, 222 pp.

The Ethics of Health Care provides **significant** and timely information which is succinctly presented and well written. The content of this book is essential to **all** practitioners in health care delivery.

The chapters begin with instructional goals and objectives and end with **clarification** exercises, references and suggested readings. The exercises help the student develop appropriate biomedical language and critical thinking skills and explore decision-making models. Each chapter supplies comprehensive information regarding **specific** issues such as “Euthanasia Practice and Principles, Justice and the Allocation of Scarce Resources, and Withholding and Withdrawing Life Support.” Codes of Ethics in Appendix A provide an unique opportunity to review, contrast, and appreciate the expectations of a broader spectrum of health care disciplines such as pharmacy, dental hygiene, physical therapy, and nursing.

The book can be used as a text for an Ethics course or as an excellent resource for health education teachers. The authors note that ethical decision making is a complex task which deals with facts, concepts, basic principles, and people in an arena of passion, prejudice, and ambiguity. The value attributed to the advice and decisions of health care practitioners will be based directly on the quality of reasoning and rationale used in the deliberative process. Such careful **deliberation** helps assure the provision of appropriate patient advocacy.

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