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The Ethics of Health Care

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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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