



GeriCare Medical Ethics

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Have you ever faced a dilemma at work? Do you struggle to decide what should be the best course of action for your patient? In this video, we share with you the 4 pillars of medical ethics which helps us analyze the best action to take in a given situation.

Autonomy reflects giving the patient the freedom to choose freely, when they are able to.

To make an informed decision, the healthcare worker should provide the patient with material information – the **benefits** and **risks** of each treatment, the likelihood of success and **alternative** treatments. To exercise his autonomy, the patient needs to have mental capacity and the decision must be made voluntarily.

Beneficence is the intent of doing good for the patients. It means taking actions that serves to promote the well-being of the patient.

Distinct from beneficence, nonmaleficence is the obligation of healthcare workers not to harm the patient.

And lastly, justice is the fair and **equitable** allocation of resources for **ALL** patients without prejudice.

These 4 pillars are important to guide us in taking the best action when confronted with an ethical situation.

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