RESOURCES IN HEALTHCARE ETHICS

The following articles were published in Health Progress in the past several years. Refer to the annual indexes in each December issue of Health Progress for more complete listings of articles on healthcare ethics.

AIDS
Callahan, Sidney, “Does the AIDS Crisis Justify Explicit Sex Education Ads?” January-February 1988, pp. 18, 20. Analyzes liberal and conservative arguments on the morality of promoting open discussion of sexual conduct and AIDS.


BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH
Callahan, Sidney, “Cooperating with Evil,” May 1989, pp. 12-14. Asserts that using knowledge gained from Nazi physicians’ experiments on prisoners or tissue from aborted fetuses is morally unacceptable because it encourages continuance of such practices.

Friedman, Emily, “Teach Your Children Well,” October 1990, pp. 20-24. Explains why moral vigilance is necessary to ensure that biomedical research does not victimize human subjects.

O’Rourke, Rev. Kevin D., OP, “Two Ethical Approaches to Research on Human Beings,” October 1988, pp. 48-51, 58. Compares Church teaching concerning research on human beings with that of certain national and international study groups.

CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES
Callahan, Sidney, “Ethical Blocks and Biases,” January-February 1989, pp. 18, 22. Suggests that examining one’s own predispositions is an essential part of any ethical analysis.

Callahan, Sidney, “Reason for Interest,” January-February 1991, pp. 76, 86. Examines shades of meaning in the term “interest” as used in ethical debates and explores how the concept can and should be used.

Callahan, Sidney, “Sanctity and Quality of Life Deserve Equal Commitment,” June 1988, pp. 75-76. Argues that, when properly defined, the concepts of sanctity of life and quality of life can be used as mutual correctives in ethical analyses.


Drane, James F., “Medical Ethics in the 1990s,” September 1991, pp. 29-37. Explores issues and describes principles that will become increasingly important to medical ethicists in the near future.


CORPORATE ETHICS


Callahan, Sidney, “Whistleblowing: An Ethical Dilemma,” November 1988, pp. 18-20. Suggests that employees should have the moral courage to call attention to problems and abuses but must first examine their motives for doing so.


Callahan, Sidney, “Ethics by Committee?” October 1988, pp. 76-78. Endorses ethics committees as an important decision-making resource but also warns of some problems.


Hanley, Kevin F., “Partners at Work,” January-February 1990, pp. 82-85. Explores some major elements of Catholic social teaching regarding managers’ responsibilities to workers.


Neale, Ann, “Aligning IDNs’ Financial Interests with Communities’ Best Interests,” October 1993, pp. 14-15, 47. Describes the steps IDN administrators must take to ensure their organizations promote the best interest of the communities they serve.

Sanborn II, A. Beckwith, and Hanley, Kevin V., “Finder’s Fees,” March 1989, pp. 46-49. Argues it is unethical, and possibly illegal, for corporate officers of not-for-profit healthcare facilities to receive fees for arranging the sale of their facilities.


ETHICS COMMITTEES
Allen, Sr. Cheryl, SSJ, and Ross, Gary E., “The Policy Forum,” April 1989, pp. 48-49. Argues that a facility’s ethics committee may be the most appropriate vehicle for establishing policies on complex treatment issues.


Sullivan, Sr. Patricia, RSM, and Eg an, Sr. Maureen, RSM, “A Measure of Growth,” November 1993, pp. 44-47, 52. Discusses a process used by a system’s corporate ethics committee to assess its performance and plan for the future.
Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide


Hooyman, Nancy W., “Does Compassion Include Euthanasia?” March 1993, pp. 44-47. Warns that physicians’ roles vis-à-vis terminally ill patients can create the illusion that euthanasia is a humane option.

McCartney, Rev. James J., OSA, “Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Elements of Church Teaching,” January-February 1992, pp. 73, 82. Reviews the Church’s basic positions on euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Place, Rev. Michael D., “Why We Should Not Legalize Euthanasia,” March 1993, pp. 39-43, 70. Maintains that our moral heritage compels us to translate the foundational principle obliging us to protect life into a concrete norm.

Post, Stephen G., “American Culture and Euthanasia,” December 1991, pp. 32-38. Argues that the best way to combat the movement toward euthanasia and assisted suicide is to create a system of caring.


Genetics


Long-Term Care


Whiteneck, Sr. Margaret Rose, CBS, “Forum Allows LTC Facilities to Face Ethical Issues Together,” March 1988, pp. 82-84. Describes an interfacility study group that helps administrators, nurses, admissions officers, and social workers address ethics issues in long-term care.

Organ Transplantation

Benjamin, Martin, “Medical Ethics and Economics of Organ Transplantation,” March 1988, pp. 47-52. Examines whether organ transplants should be available to all, regardless of ability to pay.


Technology


Treatment Decisions

Brodeur, Rev. Dennis, “The Ethics of Cruzan,” October 1990, pp. 42-47. Critiques the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in the Cruzan decision.

Callahan, Sidney, “Ethical Issues of Unconventional Therapies,” September 1993, pp. 42-43. Looks at ethical issues alternative medicine poses for researchers, providers, and patients.

Callahan, Sidney, “Timely Arguments,” April 1991, pp. 73, 78. Explores the relevance of a person’s prospects for future development in ethical debates about abortion and end-of-life treatment decisions.

“Care of the Dying: A Catholic Perspective” (four parts), March 1993, pp. 34-38, 70; April 1993, pp. 16-21, 41; May 1993, pp. 22-26, 31; June 1993, pp. 46-54. Excerpts a CHA document that clarifies and extends the insights of Catholic theological teaching to address issues at the end of life.


Dougherty, Charles J., "A Life-and-Death Decision: The Lakeberg Twins," November 1993, pp. 16, 30. Questions whether a decision to surgically separate conjoined twins constituted an unjust allocation of resources and whether the parents' consent was informed.


Gula, Rev. Richard M., SS, "Should Money Matter?" September 1990, pp. 18-19, 27. Asserts that it is morally acceptable to refuse treatment if the financial burden it creates outweighs the benefit.


McCardle, D. Robert, and Bader, Sr. Diana, OP, "Confronting Conflict," April 1991, pp. 31-35. Describes the process a nursing home's staff went through in deciding to acquiesce to an elderly patient's refusal of nutrition.


Mitchell, Jr., John J., "From Ethical Dilemmas to Hospital Policy," November 1991, pp. 22-26 (with responses from Sr. Diana Bader, OP, pp. 27-29, and John Miles, pp. 29-30). Presents a hospital's policy for withholding, limiting, or discontinuing artificially provided hydration and/or nutrition, along with the assumptions that guided the policy's formulation.


Tauer, Carol A., "Lives at Stake," September 1992, pp. 18-27. Presents an ethical framework for determining the circumstances under which it would be morally permissible to compel a pregnant woman to submit to invasive medical procedures against her will.