

**Should parents be  
default health surrogates  
for their children?**

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- NO, for two reasons:
  1. Parents are rarely the most qualified decision makers
  2. Children with decision making capacity should have a right to make decisions without surrogates for the same reasons adults do

# 1. Parents are rarely the most qualified decision makers

- Sometimes parents make very poor decisions
- Usually the physician knows more about medicine than they do
- Parents may have conflicts of interest
- Other parties could be appointed to make decisions who do not have these problems (either physicians or designated pediatric health care decision makers)

## 2. Children with decision making capacity should have a right to make decisions without surrogates for the same reasons adults do

- some children are better at making decisions than some adults
- If children *can* make their own decisions, then they are autonomous and so their decisions should be respected

# IN YOUR GROUP, EITHER:

A. Find an objection to my argument;

or, if you agree with it,

B. Anticipate an objection others might make, and formulate an effective response to it