

Practice cases

An elderly man with dementia comes to the hospital for dialysis 4 days a week with his wife, but when he gets there he often refuses to cooperate with staff and says he wants to go home.

- Who should be the surrogate decision maker and why?
- What standard should the surrogate use to make the decision and why?

An adult patient with multi-organ failure is on her death bed. She left a living will stating that she does not wish to be put on a ventilator in any circumstances. Her sister is designated as her surrogate. When the patient stops breathing, the sister begins to scream at the doctors that she is “dying” and needs to be put on a ventilator.

- Who should be the surrogate decision maker and why?
- What standard should the surrogate use to make the decision and why?

Cassia is an 8 year old female who is terrified of needles. The doctor and Cassia's parents both agree that Cassia needs an immunization that can only be administered by injection, but Cassia refuses the immunization. Briefly answer the following two questions: a. Who should be the surrogate decision maker and why? b. What standard should the surrogate use to make the decision and why?

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An unidentified 25 year old gunshot victim is brought by ambulance to the ER. He is unconscious and quickly bleeding out.

- Who should be the surrogate decision maker and why?
- What standard should the surrogate use to make the decision and why?