

HEALTH CARE ETHICS FINAL STUDY SHEET

Pediatric Decision Making

1. What is the difference between competence and decision making capacity? When do children become legally competent?
2. May physicians ever decide not to cooperate with parental decisions? If so, when?
3. What are two ways in which physicians can respond when parents make decisions not in the best interests of the child?
4. Explain one of Dr. MacDougall's arguments supporting the idea that parents should not be the default health care decision makers for their children.

Definitions of Health and Disease 1: Boorse

5. What is objectivism?
6. What, according to Boorse, is health?
7. What, according to Boorse, is disease (or pathology)?
8. What is a reference class?
9. For what 2 purposes, shared by all living beings, do body parts function?
10. Be able to determine whether various conditions count as disease/pathology or not.
11. What is one major advantage of Boorse's biostatistical theory of health (BST)?

Definitions of Health and Disease 2: Engelhardt

12. According to Engelhardt, how many scientific categories and explanations are determined by underlying human values?
13. What were some of the therapies that physicians used to treat masturbation? According to their observations, did these therapies work?
14. What is the problem with saying that, in the case of masturbation, social norms (such as the belief that masturbation is wrong) were the cause of the symptoms experienced by masturbators?

Treatment and Enhancement

15. What is the difference between therapy (or treatment) and enhancement?
16. What does it mean to say that something is a social norm for human form or function?

Disability 1 (Wendell)

No questions (other than the reading questions)

Disability 2 (Gunther and Diekema)

No questions (other than the reading questions)

Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide

17. What is voluntary active euthanasia?
18. What is one reason for thinking that physician-assisted suicide is not morally different than voluntary active euthanasia?
19. What are the two ethical principles that Brock says form the central ethical argument for legalizing euthanasia? Why does he say they support legalizing euthanasia?
20. What was the main objection to voluntary active euthanasia Brock considered?
21. What, according to Brock, is the distinction between killing and letting die?
22. Why does this distinction lead Brock to conclude that doctors are currently permitted to, and often do, kill patients?
23. What is one of the cases (or one of the reasons) discussed in class that suggests Brock is wrong about the distinction between killing and letting die?

Case Presentations

24. We will add 2 new questions (and answers) from the case presentations after groups 5 and 6 present on Monday 5/13.