

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSE OFFICERS

No individual identifiers are included in this questionnaire. All answers will remain anonymous. Your responses will be entered into a computer by a research associate unconnected with your residency training and evaluation. We thank you in advance for your cooperation

(Please circle or fill in the blank for each question)

1. Age:_____
2. PGY #:_____
3. Sex: 1 = Male 2 = Female
4. Medical School:
1 = Georgetown
2 = Other (please name)_____
5. Year of Medical School Graduation:_____
6. Religion:
1 = Catholic
2 = Protestant
3 = Jewish
4 = Other (please specify)_____
- 5 = None
7. Do you usually attend Church or Temple services once a week or more?
1 = Yes 2 = No
8. Did you have an ethics course in Medical School ? 1= Yes 2 = No
9. Please rate the adequacy of your training in ethics prior to residency on a scale from 1-4:

inadequate	barely adequate	excellent	so good that no further training is needed
1	2	3	4

Please rate how confident you feel in your abilities in the following areas.

	very low confidence		very high confidence		
16. Ability to recognize a genuine ethical problem in medical management	1	2	3	4	5
17. Ability to reach a sound decision when facing a problem in clinical ethics	1	2	3	4	5
18. Ability to give reasons to your colleagues in support of your decision pertaining to matters of medical ethics	1	2	3	4	5
19. Ability to obtain a genuinely informed consent	1	2	3	4	5
20. Knowledge of how to proceed when a patient is incompetent	1	2	3	4	5
21. Understanding of the ethical dimension of caring for the terminally ill.	1	2	3	4	5

Please circle the answer which most nearly describes your opinion:

22. In general, training in ethics for house officers is:

1. A waste of time
2. A good idea, but house officers can better spend their time learning about the biological aspects of disease
3. Important enough to be an elective aspect of training for house officers
4. Very important and should be a standard aspect of training for house officers

23. The British generally do not dialyze patients over the age of 55. I believe this is:
1. Completely justified because resources are limited and the quality of life of the elderly on dialysis is generally limited
 2. Partially justified because resources are limited, but if more resources for dialysis became available, the elderly should be dialyzed
 3. Seriously questionable because one segment of society should not be singled out to be excluded from society's resources
 4. A moral outrage because the elderly deserve more, not less, of society's resources
24. It is justifiable to lie to a patient ?
1. Never
 2. Rarely
 3. Often
 4. Usually
25. It is justifiable to withhold information from patients?
1. Never
 2. Rarely
 3. Often
 4. Usually
26. Which of the following best describes your opinion regarding the responsibilities of physicians towards patients infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)?
1. Doctors should never allow themselves to be exposed to the blood and body fluids of HIV infected patients even if precautions (such as gloves and goggles) are taken
 2. Individual physician's rights should be respected and each should be able to choose whether or not to treat HIV infected patients
 3. Those physicians who refuse to care for patients with HIV are always morally at fault, but no action (inside or outside the profession) should be taken to force them to care for these patients
 4. No physician is ever justified in refusing to care for HIV infected patients and any physician who refuses such care should be disciplined.

27. When a competent patient and a physician disagree, the patient's preferences:
1. Should always be acted upon
 2. Should be acted upon, unless the patient's preferences would involve the physician in activities which he/she believes are immoral
 3. Should be acted upon, unless this would violate the physician's morals or, **on exceptional occasions**, when the physician strongly believes that following the patient's preferences would not be in the patient's own best interest
 4. Should be acted upon unless this would violate the physician's morals or the physician feels that following the patient's preferences would not be in the patient's own best interests
28. I believe abortion is morally justified (please answer personally and not with respect to legislative choices) :
1. Never
 2. Only to save the life of the mother
 3. To save the life of the mother or in other selected cases such as severe genetic abnormality in the fetus, rape, or incest
 4. Whenever a woman who is pregnant decides that in her situation this is the best thing to do
29. I believe it is morally justifiable to break a patient's confidentiality:
1. Never
 2. Only for purposes of public health reporting or in other circumstances where required by law.
 3. Both required by law and in some **rare** circumstances not specifically required by law when doing so would prevent harm to innocent third parties
 4. Whenever doing so is in the patient's best interests or in the best interests of other, relevant parties

Please answer the following questions regarding your knowledge about selected topics in medical ethics:

30. Deontology is:
1. A rule-based ethical theory
 2. A religious ethical theory
 3. A technical synonym for utilitarianism
 4. The study of the linguistic meaning of moral words
31. Suppose that you are making a clinical ethical decision regarding a man with an I.Q. of 40 who is your patient. Assume that all of the following persons are alive and competent.

- A) The patient's legal guardian who sees the patient once year
- B) The patient's mother who has not seen him in 30 years
- C) The attending physician
- D) The patient brother who has been his caretaker for the last 30 years and genuinely cares about the patient but is not his legal guardian

Which of the following represents the **legally** correct "hierarchy" of substituted decision makers:

- 1. D, A, B, C
 - 2. A, D, B, C
 - 3. A, B, D, C
 - 4. B, A, C, D
32. The District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia all have living-will statutes:
- 1. True
 - 2. False
33. All that is legal is moral, but all that is moral is not legal.
- 1. True
 - 2. False
34. Elizabeth Bouvia is:
- 1. The first surrogate mother
 - 2. A burn victim who argued to have her respirator turned off
 - 3. A quadriplegic woman who contested her mandatory tube feedings
 - 4. A mentally retarded child whose parents refused surgery for a tracheo-esophageal fistula
35. The number of physicians convicted of homicide in the United States for turning off the respirators of the patients with irreversible coma is approximately:
- 1. 0
 - 2. 5-10
 - 3. Around 20
 - 4. Between 40-50
36. Consider the following case. Mrs. Jones is a demented widow who lacks decision making capacity. She has no surviving siblings. Her only child is a daughter who lives in another state and has not seen the patient during this admission nor in the last 15 years. The patient now lives with a woman who has been her best friend for the last 40 years

who took her into her own home six months ago in order to provide for her increasing care needs. In evaluating the patient's dementia it is discovered she has a positive RPR and FTA and pupillary defect consistent with neurosyphilis. You wish to perform an L.P. Which would constitute the most morally valid statement regarding the consent procedure?

1. Consent is not necessary as the suspected disease is life threatening and the risks of an L.P. are minimal.
 2. Telegram consent from the daughter is a legal requirement. The friend should be informed of the daughter's decision out of courtesy, but should have no say in the matter.
 3. Signed, written consent from the friend is morally sufficient, and the daughter need not know.
 4. Signed, written consent from the friend is morally sufficient. The daughter ought to be informed over the telephone if possible, but the friend ought to have the final say.
37. The European nation most tolerant of euthanasia is:
1. The Russian Republic
 2. France
 3. Czechoslovakia
 4. The Netherlands
38. The Hippocratic Oath prohibits:
1. Lying to patients
 2. Abortion
 3. Euthanasia
 4. 2 and 3
 5. 1, 2, and 3
39. "Classical" utilitarianism prescribes the moral decision as the one in which
1. The majority rules
 2. The net good of the society is maximized
 3. The greatest good is achieved for the greatest number
 4. The good of the decision maker is maximized
40. In the case of Tarasoff v. the Board of Regents of the State University of California
1. A psychiatrist was sued for not alerting his patient's girlfriend of the patient's threat

- against her life
2. A gynecologist was sued for performing an abortion on a pregnant woman in a coma
 3. An intensivist was sued for not resuscitating a terminally ill patient despite the family's wishes that he do so
 4. A dentist was sued for the mercy-killing of his quadriplegic wife.
41. Lying to patients would be categorically prohibited by:
- A) Immanuel Kent B) Hippocrates C) the Catholic Church
1. A only
 2. B only
 3. C only
 4. A and B
 5. None of the above
42. If a 15 year old minor who is the child of Jehovah's witness has a life-threatening bleed in which usual care would include "stat" transfusion, under law you may:
1. Not transfuse the patient without the parents' consent
 2. Emergently transfuse the patient if you feel it is medically necessary even if the parents object.
 3. Transfuse the patient if you obtain a court order allowing you to do so against the parents' wishes
 4. None of the above
43. Nancy Cruzan was
1. A quadriplegic woman who contested her mandatory tube feedings.
 2. Imprisoned after she continued to use cocaine while pregnant.
 3. In a persistent vegetative state and her parents wanted her feeding tube removed.
 4. Denied a bone marrow transplant because Oregon Medicaid refused to cover this procedure.

Question 44-47: Circle all of the following statements which are **true** in the District of Columbia:

44. A Durable Power of Attorney Document has no force because this power can only be granted by a state government.
45. The Natural Death Act of the District of Columbia forbids the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration from terminally ill patients.

46. Physicians who know of colleagues impaired by substance abuse **are legally obligated** to report the impairment of their colleagues.
47. Every hospital in the District is required to have an ethics committee.
48. Which of the following represents a landmark case regarding confidentiality and the doctor-patient relationship?
 1. Superintendent of Belchertown v. Saikewitz
 2. Bouvia
 3. Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California
 4. In re Quinlan
49. The Patient Self Determination Act:
 1. Prevents the withholding of food and water.
 2. Requires all patients to be asked to consider a DNR order.
 3. Requires that all patient be given information about advance directives.
 4. Grants the families of patients who have been made DNR the right to sue doctors and health care facilities if the family has not been involved in the decision.
50. A patient may be declared legally incompetent by:
 1. Any licensed physician
 2. Any board certified psychiatrist
 3. Two physicians, one of whom must be a psychiatrist
 4. A judge

Note: From: "Sulmasy DP, Dwyer M, Marx E. Knowledge, confidence and attitudes regarding medical ethics: How do faculty and housestaff compare? Acad Med. 1995;70:1038-40." Printed with permission from Daniel P. Sulmasy, New York Medical College.