Moral Dilemmas In Modern Medicine

Moral Dilemmas in Modern Medicine - Michael Lockwood 1985 A really good collection, a sustained and successful attempt to throw some light on extremely difficult problems...'___ New Society.

Principles of Health Care Ethics-Raanan Gillon 1994-01-17 Analyzes the moral problems confronting health care practitioners from a wide variety of perspectives, especially those connected by four major ethical principles--respect for autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice.


Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine-Robert Hunt 1977

Ethics in Medicine-Shabih H. Zaidi 2013-12-20 This book both presents a succinct history of medical ethics and discusses a wide range of important ethical dilemmas in the provision
of modern health care. A synopsis is provided of ethics through the ages and the role of
ethics in the evolution of medicine. Principles and sources of medical ethics, as well as
different religious and secular perspectives, are explained. Ethical concerns in relation to a
variety of specific issues are then examined. These issues include, for example, human
experimentation, stem cell research, assisted reproductive technologies, termination of
pregnancy, rationing of health care, euthanasia, and quality of life issues. The author’s many
years of practicing medicine in different cultures and countries and his passion for theology
works, philosophy, literature, poetry, history, and anthropology have informed and enriched
the contents of this stimulating book.

**Bioethics in Historical Perspective**-Sarah Ferber 2013-11-28 How influential has the
Nazi analogy been in recent medical debates on euthanasia? Is the history of eugenics being
revived in modern genetic technologies? And what does the tragic history of thalidomide
and its recent reintroduction for new medical treatments tell us about how governments
solve ethical dilemmas? Bioethics in Historical Perspective shows how our understanding of
medical history still plays a part in clinical medicine and medical research today. With clear
and balanced explanations of complex issues, this extensively documented set of case
studies in biomedical ethics explores the important role played by history in thinking about
modern medical practice and policy. This book provides student readers with up-to-date
information about issues in bioethics, as well as a guide to the most influential ethical standpoints. New twists added to well-known stories will engage those more familiar with the challenging field of contemporary bioethics.

**Moral Dilemmas in Modern Medicine** - Michael Lockwood 1985 A really good collection, a sustained and successful attempt to throw some light on extremely difficult problems...'___ New Society.

**Ethics and Law in Modern Medicine** - D. Vukadinovich 2010-12-15 Ethics and Law in Modern Medicine is a unique book that explores the field of medical ethics and health care decision-making through hypothetical case studies. The truly unique feature of this volume is that each chapter sets forth a hypothetical fact pattern which includes role assignments to encourage participants to actively take part in group discussions and debate the controversial and cutting-edge topics that are presented. Each chapter includes in-depth discussion questions which thoroughly explore issues raised by the hypothetical fact patterns, and suggested readings provide background for participants. Additionally, the volume contains excerpts from key statutes and case law which govern the decision-making process presented in each chapter. The volume covers a wide variety of issues including
HIV, the health care rights of minors, consent and confidentiality, assisted reproductive technology, property rights in bodily organs, research ethics, religious freedom and the right to refuse care, rationing of scarce resources, surrogate decision-making, and several other traditional as well as unique ethical, legal, and social issues.

**Medical Ethics**-Kenneth Kearon 1995 Issues like abortion, AIDS, test-tube babies, conscience, euthanasia, etc, are increasingly becoming issues of public debate, and lay person and professional alike are expected to express an opinion. This book explores these issues and others in a way which is readily understood by both professional and lay person. Technical language is avoided, and where different approaches to an issue exist, each is outlined and the reader is left to decide among them.-from back cover.

**An Introductory Philosophy of Medicine**-James A. Marcum 2008-05-07 In this book the author explores the shifting philosophical boundaries of modern medical knowledge and practice occasioned by the crisis of quality-of-care, especially in terms of the various humanistic adjustments to the biomedical model. To that end he examines the metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical boundaries of these medical models. He begins with their metaphysics, analyzing the metaphysical positions and presuppositions and ontological
commitments upon which medical knowledge and practice is founded. Next, he considers
the epistemological issues that face these medical models, particularly those driven by
methodological procedures undertaken by epistemic agents to constitute medical knowledge
and practice. Finally, he examines the axiological boundaries and the ethical implications of
each model, especially in terms of the physician-patient relationship. In a concluding
Epilogue, he discusses how the philosophical analysis of the humanization of modern
medicine helps to address the crisis-of-care, as well as the question of “What is medicine?”
The book’s unique features include a comprehensive coverage of the various topics in the
philosophy of medicine that have emerged over the past several decades and a philosophical
context for embedding bioethical discussions. The book’s target audiences include both
undergraduate and graduate students, as well as healthcare professionals and professional
philosophers. “This book is the 99th issue of the Series Philosophy and Medicine...and it can
be considered a crown of thirty years of intensive and dynamic discussion in the field. We
are completely convinced that after its publication, it can be finally said that undoubtedly
the philosophy of medicine exists as a special field of inquiry.”

Clinical Ethics-Albert R. Jonsen 1986 Clinical Ethics introduces the four-topics method of
approaching ethical problems (i.e., medical indications, patient preferences, quality of life,
and contextual features). Each of the four chapters represents one of the topics. In each
chapter, the authors discuss cases and provide comments and recommendations. The four-topics method is an organizational process by which clinicians can begin to understand the complexities involved in ethical cases and can proceed to find a solution for each case.

**Matters of Life and Death**-Elliot N. Dorff 1998 This book addresses the unavoidable confluence of medical technology and Jewish law and ethics.

**The Legacy of Narcissus**-Jeffrey Scott Isenberg 2000

**Ethical Dilemmas in Modern Medicine**-Erich H. Loewy 1986 A series of essays, written by a practicing physician, on a wide variety of topics in medical ethics, including: clinical uncertainty; moral pluralism; paternalism; AIDS; organ procurement; physicians' involvement in executions; abortion; age as a factor in medical decision-making; sustaining life in a permanently acognitive patient; dementia; disagreement among patient, family, and physician; withholding nutritional support for the hopelessly ill; and the matter of who decides to write a DNR (do not resuscitate) order.
Covenantal Biomedical Ethics for Contemporary Medicine - James J. Rusthoven
2014-04-29 Principles-based biomedical ethics has been a dominant paradigm for the teaching and practice of biomedical ethics for over three decades. Attractive in its conceptual and linguistic simplicity, it has also been criticized for its lack of moral content and justification and its lack of attention to relationships. This book identifies the modernist and postmodernist worldviews and philosophical roots of principlism that ground the moral minimalism of its common morality premise. Building on previous work by prominent Christian bioethicists, an alternative covenantal ethical framework is presented in our contemporary context. Relationships constitute the core of medicine, and understanding the ethical meaning of those relationships is important in providing competent and empathic care. While the notion of covenant is articulated through the richness of meaning taught in the Christian Scriptures, covenantal commitment is also appreciated in Islamic, Jewish, and even pagan traditions as well. In a world of increasing medical knowledge and consequent complexity of care, such commitment can help to resist enticements toward the pursuit of self-interest. It can also improve relationships among caregivers, each of whose specific expertise must be woven into a matrix of care that constitutes optimal medical practice for each vulnerable and needy patient.

Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine - John Arras 1999 This comprehensive anthology
represents the key issues and problems in the field of medical ethics through the most up-to-date readings and case studies available. Each of the book’s six parts is prefaced with helpful introductions that raise important questions and skillfully contextualize the positions and main points of the articles that follow.

**Bioethics**-Nancy Ann Silbergeld Jecker 2007 One of the only texts in the field to cover the history, methodology, and practice of bioethics. The text is broken into three informative sections: the first addresses the history or bioethics, explaining its emergences as discipline and discourse; the second looks carefully at ethical reasoning and the justification of moral beliefs; and the final section asks students to turn a critical eye to the topic of bioethics, including ethical issues that arise at the beginning and end of life.

**Contemporary Issues in Bioethics**-Tom L. Beauchamp 1982 This anthology represents all of the most important points of view on the most pressing topics in bioethics. Containing current essays and actual medical and legal cases written by outstanding scholars from around the globe, this book provides readers with diverse range of standpoints, including those of medical researchers and practitioners, legal exerts, and philosophers.
Ownership of the Human Body-H.A. Ten Have 2013-11-11 This is the first book in healthcare ethics addressing the moral issues regarding ownership of the human body. Modern medicine increasingly transforms the body and makes use of body parts for diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive purposes. The book analyzes the concept of body ownership. It also reviews the ownership issues arising in clinical care (for example, donation policies, autopsy) and biomedical research. Societies and legal systems also have to deal with issues of body ownership. A comparison is made between specific legal arrangements in The Netherlands and France, as examples of legal approaches. In the final section of the book, different theoretical perspectives on the human body are analyzed: libertarian, personalist, deontological and utilitarian theories of body ownership.

Moral Dilemmas-Philippa Foot 2002-10-17 Moral Dilemmas is the second volume of collected essays by the eminent moral philosopher Philippa Foot. It fills the gap between her famous 1978 collection Virtues and Vices (now reissued) and her acclaimed monograph Natural Goodness, published in 2001. Moral Dilemmas presents the best of Professor Foot's work from the late 1970s to the 1990s. In these essays she develops further her influential critique of the 'non-cognitivist' approaches that have dominated moral philosophy over the last fifty years. She shows why it is a mistake to think of morality in terms of special psychological states, expressed in special kinds of judgement and a special 'moral' kind of
language. Instead she portrays thoughts about the goodness of human will and action as a particular case of the evaluation of other operations of human beings, and indeed of all living things. Among other topics, she discusses the nature of moral judgement, practical rationality, and the conflict of virtue with desire and self-interest. Moral Dilemmas, alongside Professor Foot's other two books, completes the summation of her distinctive and lasting contribution to twentieth-century moral philosophy.

**Handbook on Ethical Issues in Aging**-Tanya F. Johnson 1999 Because long-term aging has created a "new generation" of older adults, some new issues are emerging which need to be addressed from an ethical perspective--elder abuse, physician assisted suicide, dementia, intergenerational equity, guardianship, and living wills. Johnson offers both a resource on ethics and aging with a historical perspective and policy recommendations for the future with an ethical emphasis.

**Medical Ethics: Evolution, Rights and the Physician**-H.A. Shenkin 2012-10-31 The subject of medical ethics is always current and offers an inviting theme, particularly for anyone who has spent his life in medical practice. But the subject of ethics is impossible to deal with unless one first asks its purposes. Therefore, this book is divided into two parts,
the first comprehends theoretical considerations and the second, pragmatic and empirical data on, and discussions of, current problems. Part One will be of greater interest to moral philosophers, philosophers and historians of science, and social scientists. Part Two should have greater appeal to physicians, medical students and medical planners. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the latter will look into Part One for the justification of the conclusions the author could reach on the material presented in Part Two. Likewise, it will become obvious why it is believed the solutions of many, if not most, ethical dilemmas are not always discernible at a given moment in time. Also, those who are more concerned with the theoretical material of Part One might find its application to current real-life problems interesting. It should not be too much to hope that the entire book will appeal to many general readers. The bio-ethical problems presented are of frequent and growing personal concern, and are discussed almost daily in the news media.


**Law, Medicine, and Social Justice**-Larry I. Palmer 1989 Medical practice versus patients' rights is the moral dilemma explored in this book.
Modern Medicine-Simon J. Williams 2013-10-18 Do lay people view modern medicine as a fountain of hope or a font of despair? What are their experiences of modern medical care and technology, and how do their views and experiences differ across different social groups? Combining theoretical insights with a range of qualitative and ethnographic research, this volume examines lay experiences and evaluation of medicines and drugs, chronic illness and life-saving technology, and reproductive technologies. It also considers the growing popularity of complementary therapies as a potential challenge to orthodox medicine.

Professionalism and Ethics in Complementary and Alternative Medicine-Ethan B Russo 2012-11-12 Gain a better understanding of the complex issues that will decide the future of health care! This is the first book of its kind in the rapidly growing field of complementary and alternative medicine. It addresses quality-of-care concerns and also focuses on the goals of many practitioners: to secure a firm place for their practice in health care systems and to establish levels of integration. Professionalism and Ethics in Complementary and Alternative Medicine is a unique textbook, but is also an essential resource for practitioners of complementary, alternative, and conventional medicine as well as the general public. This volume is divided into three parts. The first looks at a range of current concerns over complementary and alternative medicine, many of which raise ethical
issues relating to quality of care. The next section, focusing on professionalism, indicates how practitioners must respond to the public’s concerns, especially in light of the public’s rising expectations of standards of care among all practitioners. The third part is comprised of case histories plus commentaries suitable for private study or classroom discussion. In this valuable book you will find: an examination of current issues in complementary/alternative medicine and bioethics explorations of other approaches to ethical dilemmas including “bottom-up” ethics such as consequentialism and social utilitarianism plus feminist ethics, virtue ethics, and more informed discussion of public expectations of professional roles and responsibilities case histories that illustrate ethical issues explanations of the Hippocratic Oath and complementary and alternative medicine codes an examination of the power structure within health care systems and much, much more! Growing from a course on ethics and law at the Homeopathic College of Canada in Toronto, Professionalism and Ethics in Complementary and Alternative Medicine will benefit everyone who is concerned with quality care and integrated medicine.

**Textbook of Medical Ethics**-Erich H. Loewy 2013-06-29 When physicians in training enter their clinical years and first begin to become involved in clinical decision making, they soon find that more than the technical data they had so carefully learned is involved. Prior to that time, of course, they were aware that more than technology was involved in practicing
Moral Dilemmas In Modern Medicine

medicine, but here, for the first time, the reality is forcefully brought home. It may be on the medical ward, when a patient or a patient's relatives ask that no further treatment be given and that the patient be allowed to die; it may be in ob/gyn, when a 4- or 5-month pregnant lady with two other children and just deserted by her husband pleads for an abortion; it may be in the outpatient setting, where patients unable to afford enough to eat cannot afford to buy antibiotics for their sick child or provide him or her with the recom mended diet. Whatever the setting, students soon find themselv. es con fronted with problems in which an answer is not given by the technical possibilities alone; indeed, students may have to face situations in which, all things considered, the use of these technical possibilities seems ill- advised. But choices need to be made. Some of us may choose to hide behind a mastery of technology.

**My Sister's Keeper**-Shirley Lord 1986 Grab a box of tissues and settle in for a heart-wrenching exploration of illness, morality, and familial bonds in this excellent screen adaptation of bestselling author Jodi Picoult's My Sister's Keeper. When parents Sara (Cameron Diaz) and Brian Fitzgerald (Jason Patric) find out that their daughter Kate (Sofia Vassilieva) has leukemia, they make the difficult choice to utilize the advancements of modern medicine and impregnate Sara with a child genetically ensured to be a donor match for Kate. Throughout the many years of dealing with Kate's illness, the needs of individual
family members--including Kate's parents, her brother Jesse (Evan Ellingson), and her sister Anna (Abigail Breslin)--are largely ignored in light of Kate's more serious needs. Still, Kate's sister Anna rarely complains about helping Kate, even when it involves undergoing painful bone marrow aspirations. Recently, however, Anna has had a change of heart and has decided to stand up for her right to have a say in medical procedures involving herself: she's enlisted a lawyer, Campbell Alexander (Alec Baldwin), to help her sue her parents for medical emancipation. The issue is highly emotional and the familial strife is further compounded by the fact that Kate is quickly failing and needs an immediate kidney transplant for even a chance of continued survival. The emotional struggle of dealing with serious illness while trying to meet one's own needs permeates the film, as do the staggering moral dilemmas inherent in the advances of modern medicine. While Picoult's readers may be disappointed that the film doesn't delve as deeply into Anna's and Jesse's characters as the book does, My Sister's Keeper is nonetheless an intensely powerful film bursting with emotion and moral quandary that leaves viewers pondering what lengths they might go to in a similar situation.

**Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine** John D. Arras 1989 A textbook for undergraduates. Some 70 selections (more than half are new to this edition) follow an introductory essay. Current controversies (surrogacy, genetic engineering, proxy consent) are thoroughly
Organizational Culture and Ethics in Modern Medicine - Rosiek, Anna 2015-11-13
Technological developments and improved treatment methods have acted as an impetus for recent growth and change within the medical community. As patient expectations increase and healthcare organizations have come under scrutiny for questionable practices, medical personnel must take a critical look at the current state of their operations and work to improve their managerial and treatment processes. Organizational Culture and Ethics in Modern Medicine examines the current state of the healthcare industry and promotes methods that achieve effective organizational practice for the improvement of medical services in the public and private sphere. Focusing on patient communication, technology integration, healthcare personnel management, and the delivery of quality care, this book is a pivotal reference source for medical professionals, healthcare managers, hospital administrators, public health workers, and researchers interested in improving patient and employee satisfaction within healthcare institutions.

A Short History of Medical Ethics - Albert R. Jonsen 2000
A physician says, "I have an ethical obligation never to cause the death of a patient," another responds, "My ethical
obligation is to relieve pain even if the patient dies." The current argument over the role of physicians in assisting patients to die constantly refers to the ethical duties of the profession. References to the Hippocratic Oath are often heard. Many modern problems, from assisted suicide to accessible health care, raise questions about the traditional ethics of medicine and the medical profession. However, few know what the traditional ethics are and how they came into being. This book provides a brief tour of the complex story of medical ethics evolved over centuries in both Western and Eastern culture. It sets this story in the social and cultural contexts in which the work of healing was practiced and suggests that, behind the many different perceptions about the ethical duties of physicians, certain themes appear constantly, and may be relevant to modern debates. The book begins with the Hippocratic medicine of ancient Greece, moves through the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Enlightenment in Europe, and the long history of Indian 7nd Chinese medicine, ending as the problems raised modern medical science and technology challenge the settled ethics of the long tradition.

**Ethical Dilemmas in Pediatrics**-Edwin N. Forman 2012-12-06 This book is addressed to all professionals concerned with the health care of children. It is, first and foremost, a teaching tool. It can be used for class discussion or case conferences with medical students or residents, nurses, and other staff in pediatrics or family medicine. It can also be used for
self-teaching or continuing education by those already in practice. No one who reads this book is a beginner at moral reasoning. However, many may well be beginners at discussions that focus sharply on the ethical issues in medicine and introduce philosophical analysis. The goal is to clarify, conceptualize, and guide reasoning in order to come to conclusions that can be defended with good reasons. Case studies provide the most successful method of teaching medical ethics, posing the issues as they arise in real-life situations. The cases in this book are brief and rather skeletal in nature. This is partly to deflect the natural curiosity of those who are driven to seek more and more medical details, hoping thus to resolve the ethical issues or avoid them entirely. It also allows the reader to concentrate on one ethical issue at a time. In real life, of course, the hard questions arise often several at a time, embedded in a rich and complex medical and psychosocial background. As one must learn to walk before one can run, so it is wise to practice on cases where the key issue is highlighted.

**Assisted Ventilation of the Neonate**-Jay P. Goldsmith 2003 Readers can access expert coverage of all aspects of the basic science and management of neonatal pulmonary care-including complications, nutrition, transport, outcomes, follow-up, and parental education. Ventilatory management case studies let them test and hone diagnostic and clinical abilities with problems drawn from actual patients. The Fourth Edition presents new chapters on:
control of ventilation specialized ventilator techniques and modalities exogenous surfactant
therapy ventilatory strategies nitric oxide the ethical considerations of assisted ventilation

Crash Course Medical Ethics and Sociology Updated Edition - E-Book - Andrew
Papanikitas 2015-01-12 Crash Course - your effective everyday study companion PLUS the
perfect antidote for exam stress! Save time and be assured you have all the core information
you need in one place to excel on your course and achieve exam success. A winning formula
now for over 15 years, each volume has been fine-tuned and fully updated, with an improved
layout tailored to make your life easier. Especially written by junior doctors - those who
understand what is essential for exam success - with all information thoroughly checked
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meets your needs and you know you can trust. The importance of ethics and sociology as
applied cannot be underestimated, within both the medical curriculum and everyday
modern clinical practice. Medical students and junior doctors cannot hope to experience
every dilemma first hand, but are expected to deal with new and problematic clinical
situations in a reasoned, professional and systematic way. This volume, which accounts for
the revised core curriculum in Medical Ethics and Law, will prove an indispensable
companion. More than 80 line artworks, tables and boxes present clinical, diagnostic and
practical information in an easy-to-follow manner Friendly and accessible approach to the
subject makes learning especially easy. Written by junior doctors for students - authors who understand exam pressures. Contains ‘Hints and Tips’ boxes, and other useful aide-mémoires. Succinct coverage of the subject enables ‘sharp focus’ and efficient use of time during exam preparation. Contains a fully updated self-assessment section - ideal for honing exam skills and self-testing. Self-assessment section fully updated to reflect current exam requirements. Contains ‘common exam pitfalls’ as advised by faculty. Crash Courses also available electronically. Crash Course - your effective everyday study companion PLUS the perfect antidote for exam stress! Save time and be assured you have all the core information you need in one place to excel on your course and achieve exam success. A winning formula now for over 15 years, each volume has been fine-tuned and fully updated, with an improved layout tailored to make your life easier. Especially written by junior doctors - those who understand what is essential for exam success - with all information thoroughly checked and quality assured by expert Faculty Advisers, the result is a series of books which exactly meets your needs and you know you can trust. The importance of ethics and sociology as applied cannot be underestimated, within both the medical curriculum and everyday modern clinical practice. Medical students and junior doctors cannot hope to experience every dilemma first hand, but are expected to deal with new and problematic clinical situations in a reasoned, professional and systematic way. This volume, which accounts for the revised core curriculum in Medical Ethics and Law, will prove an indispensable companion.
Routledge Handbook of Medical Law and Ethics-Yann Joly 2014-09-19 This book explores the scope, application and role of medical law, regulatory norms and ethics, and addresses key challenges introduced by contemporary advances in biomedical research and healthcare. While mindful of national developments, the handbook supports a global perspective in its approach to medical law. Contributors include leading scholars in both medical law and ethics, who have developed specially commissioned pieces in order to present a critical overview and analysis of the current state of medical law and ethics. Each chapter offers comprehensive coverage of longstanding and traditional topics in medical law and ethics, and provides dynamic insights into contemporary and emerging issues in this heavily debated field. Topics covered include: Bioethics, health and human rights Medical liability Law and emerging health technologies Public health law Personalized medicine The law and ethics of access to medicines in developing countries Medical research in the genome era Emerging legal and ethical issues in reproductive technologies This advanced level reference work will prove invaluable to legal practitioners, scholars, students and researchers in the disciplines of law, medicine, genetics, dentistry, theology, and medical ethics.

Moral Acquaintances and Moral Decisions-Stephen S. Hanson 2009-09-18 The potential of modern medicine in a pluralistic world leads to the potential for moral conflict. The most
prevailing bioethical theories often either overestimate or underestimate the amount of shared moral belief that can be used to address those conflicts. This work presents a means for taking seriously the pluralism in the modern world while recognizing the likelihood of moral “acquaintance” between persons with differing views. It criticizes moral theories that overstate the extent of the problem of pluralism as well as those that imply too much agreement between reasonable moral persons, yet it locates a means for the resolution of many moral conflicts in moral acquaintanceship. Drawing from the work of H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr., casuists and principle-based theorists, and Erich Loewy and Kevin W. Wildes’s initial development of the concept of moral acquaintanceship, Moral Acquaintances and Moral Decisions is philosophically indepth work with direct applications for decisionmaking in real medical settings. A work in moral theory as well as a source of real world guidance, clinically oriented bioethics professionals as well as students of bioethical theory should find the theory of moral acquaintanceship provided here important to their work.

Obstetrical Intervention and Technology in the 1980s-Diony Young 1983-01-01 Here is an impressive and thought-provoking volume on intervention and technology in obstetrics. This invaluable resource for both health professionals and health consumers can be used in clinical practice to improve the health and well-being of mothers and babies everywhere.
Experts examine the technologies used in obstetrics today, describe the current state of knowledge about them, and address the overwhelming ethical and moral issues involved in the emergence and increasing sophistication of obstetrical technology.

**Professional Ethics and Primary Care Medicine**-Harmon L. Smith 1986 This volume moves beyond ethics as problem-solving or ethics as etiquette to offer a look at ethics in primary care—as opposed to life-or-death—medical care. Professional Ethics and Primary Care Medicine deals with the ethics of routine, day-to-day encounters between doctors and patients. It probes beneath the hard decisions to look at the moral frameworks, habits of thought, and customs of practice that underlie choices. Harmon Smith and Larry Churchill argue that primary care, far from being merely a setting for the rendering of care, provides a new understanding of both physician and patient, and thereby offers a fresh basis for medical ethics.

**The Ethics of Medical Involvement in Capital Punishment**-Joseph B.R. Gaie 2006-04-11 The morality of capital punishment has been debated for a long time. This however has not resulted in the settlement of the question either way. Philosophers are still divided. In this work I am not addressing the morality of capital punishment per se. My
question is different but related. It is this. Whether or not capital punishment is morally right, is it moral or immoral for medical doctors to be involved in the practice? To deal with this question I start off in Chapter One delineating the sort of involvement the medical associations consider to be morally problematic for medical doctors in capital punishment. They make a distinction between what they call 2 “medicalisation” of and “involvement” in capital punishment, and argue that there is a moral distinction between the two. Whilst it is morally acceptable for doctors to be “involved” in capital punishment, according to the medical associations, it is immoral to medicalise the practice. I clarify this position and show what moral issues arise. I then suggest that there should not be a distinction between the two. The medical associations argue that the medicalisation of capital punishment, especially the use by medical doctors of lethal injection to execute condemned prisoners is immoral and therefore should be prohibited, because it involves doctors in doing what is against the aims of medicine.
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