

## Ethics Work-Up

**Step 1:** Identify relevant facts of the case and any additional information you want to know.

**Step 2:** Identify the available alternative courses of action.

**Step 3:** Assess each available alternative from the perspective of the relevant ethical appeals.

- a. Appeal to established legal, ethical, and professional standards.
- b. Appeal to consequences.
- c. Appeal to rights.
- d. Appeal to virtues.
- e. Appeal to other ethical considerations (where applicable).
  - Justice (e.g., social justice and resource allocation).
  - Special obligations in the professional role (e.g., physician advocacy and patient interests) and in the role of surrogate decision-maker (e.g., substituted judgment).
  - Legitimate self-interests and personal commitments/obligations.
  - General moral constraints.

**Step 4:** Provide an argument and a justified management plan for one of the alternative courses of action.

- State clear reasons based on assessment of the appeals for assigning priority to one course of action rather than another.
- State a clear critique of these reasons and respond to the critique.
- Provide a detailed management plan for implementing the course of action that you chose that includes several steps and back-up plans.

**Step 5:** Identify steps that might have been taken to prevent the ethical challenge(s) that arose in this case.