

# e-LEARNING INFORMATION SHEET

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## Conflict at the End of Life

The following is a listing of some websites, texts, videos, courses, conferences and articles that have been identified as a result of literature or web searches on this topic. The views expressed in these sources are those of the authors or presenters and do not necessarily reflect MB-PHEN positions or perspectives. If you have any suggestions or ideas to help us update this Information Sheet, please contact MB-PHEN at 204-926-7124 or [ethics@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:ethics@wrha.mb.ca).

### WEB RESOURCES

The Canadian Virtual Hospice (CVH) provides many resources to health care providers and patients/families, including videos and other tools, courses, and a peer-reviewed information exchange on all matters relating to end of life care. Of particular importance in this type of discussion is a focus on effective communication. CVH can be found at <http://www.virtualhospice.ca>.

Murphy, P. (2013) *End of Story?* Published July 29, 2013 by Impact Ethics. Accessible at <http://impactethics.ca/2013/07/29/end-of-story/>. This is a thoughtful, reasoned piece about a difficult and controversial case that concerns disagreement on a care plan. Pat Murphy poses many good questions for discussion.

### TEXT

These two textbooks offer good definitions and extensive analysis and frameworks for discussing the ethical implications of providing care at the end of life.

Beauchamp, T. & Childress, J. (2009). *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Jonsen, A., Siegler, M., & Winslade, W. (2010). *Clinical Ethics*. McGraw Hill: New York.

### JOURNALS

Many journal articles have been written on end of life care, especially when the expectations of the patient/family and the health care team are not aligned or are not clear. The following list is a sample of articles that illustrate some of the ethical issues that can arise at this emotionally charged time. A literature search using the term *ethical care AND end of life* will result in many more suggestions.

- Back, A., & Arnold, R. (2005). Perspectives on care at the close of life. Dealing with conflict of caring for the seriously ill: "it was just out of the question". *JAMA: Journal of The American Medical Association*, 293(11), 1374-1381.
- Dudzinski, D.M., & Shannon, S.E. (2006). Competent patients' refusal of nursing care. *Nursing Ethics*, 13(6), 608-621. Doi: 10.1177/09697333006069696.
- Frank, J. (2010). Refusal: Deciding to pull the tube. *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*, 23(5), 671-673.
- Rosenberg, T., & Speice, J. (2013). Integrating care when the end is near: Ethical dilemmas in end-of-life care. *Families, Systems & Health: The Journal of Collaborative Family Health Care*, 31(1), 75-83. Doi: 10.1037/a0031850.
- Simon, J.R. (2007). Refusal of care: The physician-patient relationship and decision-making capacity. *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, 50(4), 456-461.
- Smith, A.K., Lo, B., & Sudore, R. (2013). When previously expressed wishes conflict with best interests. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 173(13), 1241-1245. Doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2013.6053.
- Winkler, E.C., Hiddemann, W., & Marckmann, G. (2012). Evaluating a patient's request for life-prolonging treatment: An ethical framework. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 38(11), 647-651. Doi:10.1136/medethics-2011-100333.