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Checklist-ethical analysis and decision-science

Melinda Wilding

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, melinda.wilding@utrgv.edu

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Checklist-Ethical Analysis and Decision-Science

ELSI—Ethical, Legal, Social Implications

When faced with an ethical, professional, or organizational dilemma

1. Compile relevant information.

- State clinical indications. Review the medical chart or prescriptions with the clinical team
- Explicate patient preferences. Interview the patient.
- Cite quality of life indicators.
- Record social factors (examples are the social determinants of health, family structures and expectations, culture, or religion influences).
- Speak with the clinical care team and patient's family and/or friends. Chronicle their perspectives and views.

2. Organizational and Professional Factors (Legal and Social Factors in ELSI)

- List the organizational factors that might influence your decision—these will differ according to private institutions, hospitals, or other care facilities.
- Catalog professional factors and obligations (expectations, requirements, codes of ethics).
- Consider financial factors or obligations and list them.
- Seek collaboration with your legal team and/or retrieve legal statutes and precedents.

3. Identify the ethical issues and questions

- Identify the most significant ethical issue in the case.
- Identify additional ethical issues surrounding this particular contextual analysis.
- What is your first reaction to the situation or case? What is most important? Why?

4. Select the applied ethical principles and/or frameworks toward a decision.

- Identify the pertinent ethical principles (4 bioethics principles) and applied normative ethical theory (justice, deontology, virtue ethics, and/or utilitarianism),
- State standards of practice and standards of care for the particular patient or condition. State what generally is the course of action that has previously been followed and what could be done to improve on former decision-schemes.
- Consider casuistry and case studies that are similar for best action (s).

5. Conduct analysis and prepare a justification

- Identify and list three possible solutions for the situation to be resolved in an equitable, clinically indicated, socially just manner.
- Consider taking no action.

6. Consider one or more counter arguments

- Identify a major counter-argument for the three possible solutions. What factors could inhibit your ability to carry out decisions?
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of each action and rebuttal.
- Consider the circumstances under which you might abandon your argument

7. Complete the action to address the dilemma. Follow-up with the stakeholders and propose educational or institutional training for preventive ethics solutions.

Melinda M. Wilding, October 13, 2020