



Ethics Training

Ogbomoso, Nigeria
June 16, 2015

BOWEN UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

+ Ethics Foundations For Hospital
Personnel

A Starting Place for Ethical Decision Making



+ Bioethics

- All aspects of human life – before birth, during this life and after death – fall within the scope of bioethics..
- Include ..
 - “infertility treatment, abortion, organ transplantation, human cloning, research on human beings, plant genetic modification, animal genetic manipulation, concept of and criteria for and pronouncement of death , euthanasia, physician assisted suicide, patient monitoring, doctor-patient issues, communication issues, hospital visitation, impaired persons, viability, family issues, surrogacy/decision-making, etc...

+ GOALS

The intent of these presentations is to facilitate the process of making ethical decisions in clinical practice and medical research and to describe and explain underlying principles of decision making - because ethics must be understood within a historical, cultural, philosophical, and religious context.

+ Ethical Underpinnings of Medicine

■ Medical Indications

- Diagnosis
- Nature of Disease
- Patient Condition
- Prognosis
- Treatment options

■ Quality of Life

- Whose perspective
 - Persona & subjective
 - Physical, Spiritual, Psychological, Social, Cognitive
- Who decides

■ Patient Preferences

- Values, goals, wishes
- Informed?
- AD's; communicated ?

■ Contextual Features

- Social\Cultural
- Legal
- Financial
- Institutional



“The secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient.”

Francis Weld Peabody

+ Session Background

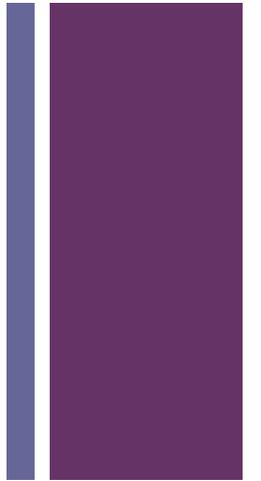
- Common questions raised in clinical settings:

When does a clinical issue become ethical?

How to recognize the ethical components in clinical cases?



A Starting Place for Ethics: Core Values



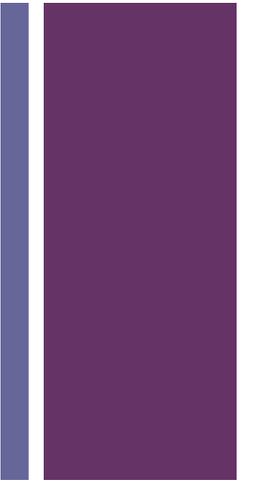
■ The Value Statement of BUTH:

■ “A first-class Christian Teaching Hospital marked by excellence and godliness for the training of doctors and other medical professionals.”

+ Bowen University Teaching Hospital's Mission:

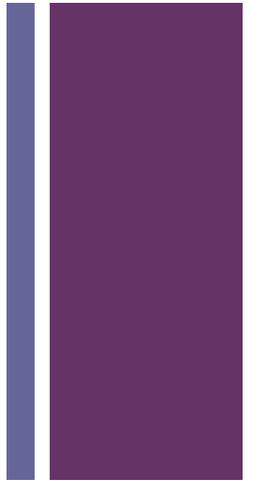
■ **MISSION**

The mission is to provide qualitative, functional, morally sound education in the most cost-effective manner, to all people irrespective of race, colour, ethnicity or religion.





A Case Study: Care and Medical Futility



- Mrs. KC was a 26-year-old graduate of management studies from one of the Nigerian Universities, and a Christian. She has recently married Mr. EC, a 38-year-old Mechanical Engineer who was self-employed and also a Christian. They presented to Dr. TO at the gynecological clinic with a 6-month history of inability to achieve conception despite regular unprotected sexual relations. Eighteen months earlier, Mrs. KC, then unmarried (Miss. KA) and in her National Youth Service scheme, had been managed by Dr. TO for pelvic abscess following complicated unsafe abortion. Abortion is illegal in Nigeria. Findings at surgery then were that of a frozen pelvis and multiloculated intraperitoneal abscess. The abscess was drained and the surgeons believed her future reproductive career was then severely compromised.

+ Case Study (Continued)

- Seven months after the surgery, Mr. EC who was Dr. TO's friend introduced the then Miss. KA to him as his fiancée. Dr. TO, stunned, struggled with himself not to disclose Miss. KA's gynaecological status to his friend. Eventually, he did not and now the couple presents to him with infertility. In the course of the infertility investigation, Dr. TO discovered that Mr. EC is HIV positive and Mrs. KC returned a negative retroviral test. Hysterosalpingogram reveals bilateral tubal blockage in Mrs. KC. After due counseling, Mr. EC's HIV positive status was confirmed by Western blot testing. He asked the doctor not to disclose his status to his wife. Meanwhile, Mrs. KC had also earlier pleaded with the doctor not to reveal her past medical history to her husband. Now, the doctor is caught in this couple's web.



Case Study

What medical-ethical principles are evident in the case study?

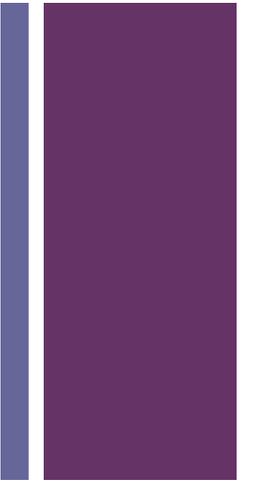
What medical-ethical values are evident in the case study?

What worldview(s) are evident?



+ How to Recognize: Core Principles and Values

This hospital's mission is centered within the historical boundaries of both Hippocratic (principled) and Christian medicine *and* is expressive of several traditional medical-ethical core values.



+ Hippocratic Principles

“I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment, but I will never use it to injure or wrong them. Into whatsoever houses I enter, I will do so to help the sick, keeping myself free from all intentional wrong-doing and harm . . .”

Hippocratic Oath

(Principles/Values: Beneficence, nonmaleficence, community, health, dignity/sanctity of life).

+ A Comparison of Principles/Values

BUTH Core Values

- Excellence
- Godliness
- Respect (“irrespective of race, colour, ethnicity, religion”)

Hippocratic Medicine

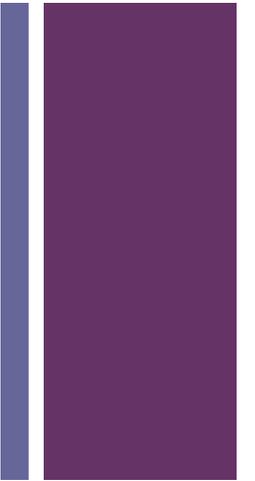
- Patient well-being
[restore to community/no guarantee “perfect health”]
- “doing good or, at least “doing no harm” to a patient [futility; comfort care]
- Respect for human dignity (life’s sanctity)

+ Values Influence Our Worldview(s)

- Values are factors and forces by which our **view(s) of the world** are shaped and the approach we take when we make ethical judgments.
- We often ask: What is good? Or, what is good/bad in a clinical case?
- So, as a result, what should we value the most?

+ A Bowen University Teaching Hospital Worldview

- In short, this hospital strives to train professionals and to provide quality healthcare to the community. This is broadly stated, but it is a moral perspective.
- BUTH's "principled" life view can be applied where there are a plurality of beliefs. The hospital aims to demonstrate unity at the level of these basic values.



+ Case Study #2

- During an outbreak of meningitis in Kano, Nigeria, in 1996, Pfizer arrived several weeks after Médecins Sans Frontières and performed a trial of trovafloxacin, a new quinolone antibiotic. The drug was tested on children without parents' informed consent, patients were unaware of the experiment, and the trial was not approved in advance by an ethical review committee. Out of 190 children that were enrolled in the trial, five receiving trovafloxacin and six receiving the existing treatment ceftriaxone died. Others suffered brain damage and paralysis.



Case Study

What principles/
values are evident
in the case study?

What worldview(s)
are evident?



+ Are Medical Principles/Values Important?

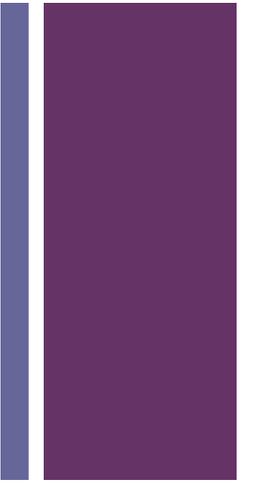
■ At first glance we might think “values” are not all that important, but they are because people (e.g. patients) connect their theories of value to their view of “the good life.” Life and health are two basic goods.

■ Healthcare professionals have the important task of providing care--which includes an understanding of modern society in terms of its moral values (e.g. life, health, family).

■ Our concept of the good life is crucial to ethical decision-making.



An Ethical Good: Preserve The Ends of Medicine



- Acting toward a patient with the traditional ends of medicine in view—health, cure, care of illness and right and good healing decision. This approach incorporates sanctity of life and beneficence/nonmaleficence as core values. These values may be applied from within a plurality of belief systems.

+ Wrapping Things Up

- In light of this presentation, pinpoint previous BUTH clinical cases where lack of clarity about ethical principles/values led to a breakdown in communication.
- Discuss steps that will help all areas of BUTH to apply core ethical principles/values to health care delivery.

