



Ethics Issues in Long Term Care

Judy Aymar, Social Worker with experience in Long Term Care and Acute Care (Retired).

The following discussion questions are provided as an additional educational tool to accompany this fireside chat video. Please feel free to select the questions that are most relevant to your committee or group, and to revise and adapt them as needed. As always, we welcome feedback on this or any other NSHEN resource.

Questions:

- Moving into a Long Term Care facility is not necessarily a choice. Many clients would prefer to remain in their home, and are grieving the loss of their independence and perhaps also of their local community, etc. How might Long Term Care staff support clients and their families in this process?
- Judy Aymar talks about respect for dignity and the importance of remembering the full person. In your opinion, what are some of the ways to ensure that Long Term Care resident's dignity is respected?
- People have the right to choose to live at risk. Deciding when to intervene can be challenging. What concerns would you have around intervening or not intervening with a client that chose to engage in activities that put themselves or others, at risk?
- Can you give some examples of ways to support the right to self-determination in clients with cognitive deficiencies?
- In your opinion, what are the most pressing things that need to be addressed to ensure the best quality of life of clients living in Long Term Care? Why?
- Judy Aymar mentions that families have high expectations when it comes to the planning of care for their loved one living in a Long Term Care setting. In your experience, how does involving a resident's family in the decision-making around health care, influence the client's quality of life and feeling of being respected and dignified?
- Judy Aymar touched on the issue of advocating for institutional change if you identify issues for example around equity, transparency and privacy. How can you influence your place of work if you identify an ethical issue which needs to be addressed on an organizational level?
- How may an organization take into account that clients have lived different cultural experiences and may have specific needs for wellbeing?

Resources:

Abdool, R. et al. 2015. Difficult healthcare transitions: Ethical analysis and policy recommendations for Nrepresented patients. Nursing Ethics, 1-14. Sage Publications.

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.1008.7423&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

Bollig, G., G, Smith, J.H. Rosland, A. Heller. 2015. Ethical challenges in nursing homes – staff's opinions and experiences with systematic ethics meetings with participation of residents' relatives.

Scandinavian Journal of Caring Science; Vol. 29 (4); 810-823.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/scs.12213>

Brian Goldman. *Seniors tell us what it's really like to live in long-term care*. Podcast by CBC Radio, July 5 2018. 26 mins. Episode. [Originally published on Dec. 15, 2017].

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/whitecoat/seniors-tell-us-what-it-s-really-like-to-live-in-long-term-care-1.4450594>

Faith, K.: Caring For Those Choosing To Live At Risk. Rehab and Community Care Medicine website.

[accessed online January 25, 2019] <https://www.rehabmagazine.ca/ethics/1931/>

Health Canada. 2004. Summary and Overview of presentations and discussions at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Bioethics Society October 28-31, 2004. [https://www.canada.ca/en/health-](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/health-system-services/ethical-issues-home-care.html)

[canada/services/publications/health-system-services/ethical-issues-home-care.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/health-system-services/ethical-issues-home-care.html)

Nolan, M. R. 2016. Autonomy and Control for Long-term Care Residents. Published October 15, 2016.

MedScape. <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/869564>

Scassa, T. 2017. Privacy, surveillance and long-term care facilities. Blogpost published in 2017.

https://www.teresascassa.ca/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=259:privacy-surveillance-and-long-term-care-facilities&Itemid=80

World Health Organization. 2002. Ethical Choices in Long Term Care: What does Justice Require?

https://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/ethical_choices.pdf

Some articles require access with an institutional login. If you need assistance in accessing an article please email NSHEN administrator Krista Mleczko-Skerry at Krista.MleczkoSkerry@iwk.nshealth.ca