

Advanced Topics in Health Economics

SS 12

Ethical issues for the management of medicine and health care for the 21st century

Dr. Frida Simonstein

Background

There have been remarkable achievements in biomedicine and health care during the past century. These achievements however have challenged moral beliefs and have created the need for reconsideration, careful analysis and discussion of the ethical issues involved in and related to medicine and health care in the present century.

Aims

The aim of this course is to delineate some of the new moral conundrums created by medicine and health care, and to provide an introduction to applied ethics. The topics discussed will include issues at the end of life and in the beginning of life, health care allocation, organizational ethics, reprogenetics, and embryonic stem cell research.

Objectives

It is expected that students

- develop awareness of the ethical issues surrounding the management of health care for the 21st century;
- develop critical skills in these topics;
- contribute to the debates in class;
- understand the nature of dispute between commentators;
- recognize strong and weak arguments;
- criticize lines of argument, and
- conduct independent research for the unit assessment.

Teaching Methods

Lecture and seminars; the sessions will take the form of informal lectures with opportunity for questions, debate and argument. The course will make use of multimedia, videos and newspapers when appropriate. Students will be expected to read independently as much as possible and present their own work to the class.

Format: The course will run over 4 days.

Assessment

- A paper of 10 pages (70%)
- Oral presentation (15-20 minutes) (30%)

Important Dates

- 11th April, 11.30-12.00: Kick-off session (venue: Institute library, Fruwirthstraße 48, R122)
- 15th April: Submission of three preferences for course paper and presentation by e-mail to Stefanie Koenig
- 18th April: Allocation of topics (ILIAS)
- 6th June: Submission deadline for papers; submissions to be made by e-mail to Frida Simonstein, (CC: Stefanie Koenig)
- 21st June: Presentations to be submitted to ILIAS
- 20th– 23rd June: Seminar (venue: t.b.a.)

Contact

Content issues: Dr. Frida Simonstein: fridas@yvc.ac.il

Administrative issues: Stefanie Koenig: s.koenig@uni-hohenheim.de

Selected Readings

Part 1: Theories and principles in bioethics and health care ethics

Beauchamp, T.L. / Childress, J.F. (2001): *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, Oxford University Press.

Harris, J. (ed.) (2001): *Bioethics*, Oxford University Press. Introduction.

Rachels, J. (2010): *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, McGraw-Hill.

Part 2: End of life and beginning of life decisions

Dworkin, R. (1994): *Life's Dominion*, Vintage.

Harris, J. / Chan, S. (2010): *The Value of Life*, Routledge.

Kuhse, Helga / Singer, Peter (eds.) (2006): *Bioethics: An Anthology*. Blackwell. Part I and IV.

Part 3: Health care allocation

Callahan, Daniel (2009): *Taming the Beloved Beast: Why Medical Technology Costs are Destroying Our Health Care System*, Princeton University Press.

Daniels, Norman (2008): *Just Health: Meeting Health Needs Fairly*, Cambridge University Press.

Part 4: Novel technologies

Harris, John (2008): *Enhancing Evolution*, Routledge.

Hayry, Matti (2010): *Rationality and the Genetic Challenge: Making People Better?*, Cambridge University Press.

Simonstein, Frida (ed.) (2009): *Reprogen-ethics and the Future of Gender*, Springer. Introduction.

Topic list

Students can choose for paper/presentation from these topics or any other topic that interests them involving contemporary discussion in bioethics. Students can use one topic for both the essay and the presentation.

Note: The list serves as a general framework to ask more specific questions (see examples) guided by personal preference.

1. Ethical dilemmas pertaining respect for persons in health care

Example: Why is important to obtain a patient's informed consent for treatment? In which cases would be reasonable to treat a person without his consent?

2. Ethical dilemmas of new reproductive technologies

Example: Is there a right to reproduce? Does this mean it is a right to get IVF treatment, when necessary, in order to reproduce?

3. Ethical dilemmas in the allocation of resources for health care needs

4. Defensive medicine and the connection between medicine, law and ethics

5. Ethical issues in embryonic stem cells research

6. End of life decisions

Example: Is there a difference between killing a person and letting him die?

Example: Is there a point in which you would say a life of a person is not worth living?

Example: In which cases, if at all, it is justifiable not treating a newborn?

7. Beginning of life decisions

Example: Is choosing the looks of our children immoral?

8. Should we use the scientific knowledge accumulated during the Nazi era?

9. Ethical dilemmas concerning patient's rights

10. Genetic screening

Programme

Day 1: 20th June 2012

Part 1: Introductions

- 09.00-09.30: **Lecture 1:** General introduction and overview of the course
- 09.30-10.30: *Class exercise:* Discussion of overview, questions and expectations
- 10.30-11.00: Break
- 11.00-12.00: **Lecture 2:** The history of bioethics
- 12.00-01.00: *Class exercise:* What is the importance of Bioethics today?
- 01.00-02.00: Lunch break
- 02.00-03.00: **Lecture 3:** Theoretical approaches to bioethics, applied ethics, law and ethics

Day 2: 21st June 2012

Part 2: Theories and principles in health care ethics

Theories of moral philosophy, value ethics, virtue ethics, the four principles

- 09.00-09.30: **Lecture 4:** Respect for persons: autonomy, consent and confidentiality. Paternalism
- 09.30-10.00: **Lecture 5:** Issues in the beginning of life; on beings, human beings and persons
- 10.00-11.00: *Class exercise:* The status of the embryo and its implications for abortion
- 11.00-11.30: Break
- 11.30-12.00: **Lecture 6:** Issues at the end of life. Death: definitions of death; euthanasia
- 12.00-01.00: *Class exercise:* Can killing be a caring thing to do?
- 01.00-02.00: Lunch break

Part 3: Rights

Is health care a right? If so why?

- 02.00-03.00: **Lecture 7:** Health care allocation

Day 3: 22nd June 2012

Part 4: Ethical challenges of novel technologies

- 09.00-09.30: **Lecture 8:** Reprogenetics
- 09.30-10.00: **Lecture 9:** Genetics and enhancing
- 10.00-10.30: *Class Exercise:* Eugenics, getting back to the future?
- 10.30-11.00: Break
- 11.00-12.00: **Lecture 10:** Embryonic stem cell research
- 12.00-01.00: Lunch break
- 01.00-03.00: *Class exercise:* Preparation for student presentations

Day 4: 23rd June 2012

Student presentations and symposium (programme to be advised)