Geriatric Emergency Medicine Initiative
Resident Training Lecture Objectives

Ethical and Legal Issues in the Treatment of Older Adults

Presenter: Dr. Ricardo Perez
Length: 1 hour
Target Audience:
   Emergency Medicine Residents (Primary)
   Internal Medicine Residents
   Emergency Medicine Faculty

Presentation Overview:
Treatment decisions for older patients are influenced by their health and functional status. The degree of treatment, from aggressive to palliation, often presents legal and ethical challenges. In this session, the Emergency Medicine resident will learn about advance directives, patient autonomy, determinants of capacity, issues surrounding resuscitation, risk management, and other relevant legal and ethical issues.

Learning objectives:
At the end of this presentation, residents will be able to:
1. Understand the difference between decision making capacity and competency.
2. Describe informed consent and the elements of appropriate disclosure of risks and benefits.
3. Describe the role of the durable power of attorney for health care, next of kin or guardian as the surrogate decision maker in an elderly patient with impaired decision making capacity.
4. Articulate the steps in an advance directives discussion and how the advance directive document influences the care plan.
5. Understand the common errors made in advance directive discussions.
6. Describe the ethical and legal implications of the DNR order.
7. Recognize when to call on risk management when making treatment decisions for the elderly patient in the ER.

Instructional Methods:
   Didactic presentation with PowerPoint slides
   Case-based discussion
   Audience response questions

Evaluation Methods:
   Pre-Test Items
   Post-Test Items
   Reaction survey

Resources:

References:
3. Supra Note 1, 337.
6. Supra Note 1, 338.
9. Supra Note 1, 344-345.
10. Supra Note 1, 240-241.
14. Supra Note 1, 241.
15. Supra Note 11, 300.
16. Supra Note 11, 301.
17. Supra Note 1, 241.
18. Supra Note 1, 560-1.
19. Supra Note 1, 339.
21. *Canterbury*, 464 F. 2d at 783.
22. Supra Note 1, 339.
24. Supra Note 1, 341-2.