

# ETHICS: AN INTRODUCTION

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## OBJECTIVES

- Define ethics and the four main principles
- Cover the three main areas of ethical studies
- Take a brief look at how some approach ethics
- Cover the Three-Step Decision-Making Model and The James Rest Model
- Ethical considerations and the patient
- Apply said Ethics to scenarios

## ETHICS

- A means of running a business in the healthcare sector
- We have to remember that healthcare is a business that impacts the very livelihood of those involved with it – which is just about everyone at some point in their life.
- These ethics find the balance between business and helping society.

## WHAT IS ETHICS

- Ethics is intermingled with the philosophy of personal moral considerations
- The way that this occurs is via subjectivity or is concluded on an individual basis
- What does this boil down to?
  - Ethics - personal and subjective conclusions to what is right and wrong.



## PERSONAL VALUES SYSTEM

- Set of beliefs based on personal experiences
  - Religion
  - Socioeconomic
  - Family
  - Friends
  - Geographics
  - Culture
  - Heritage, etc.

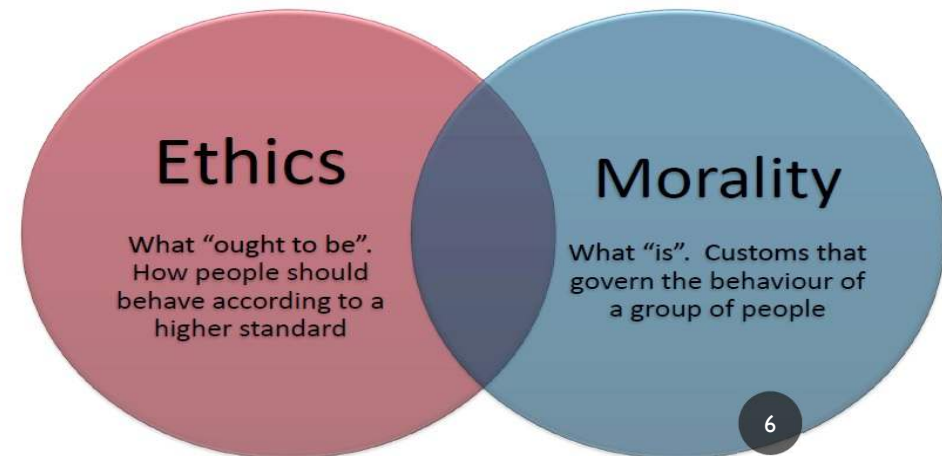


## ETHICS VS YOUR CONSCIOUS

- Ethics is morally based
- This being said, it is important to understand that concrete ethics are:
  - Not a persons conscious beliefs
  - Guided by society as a whole
  - Have been around since the dawn of human existence.
  - Part our very nature

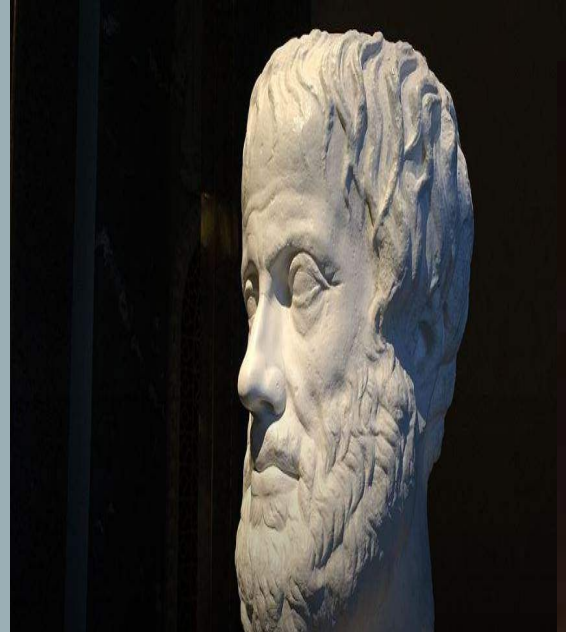
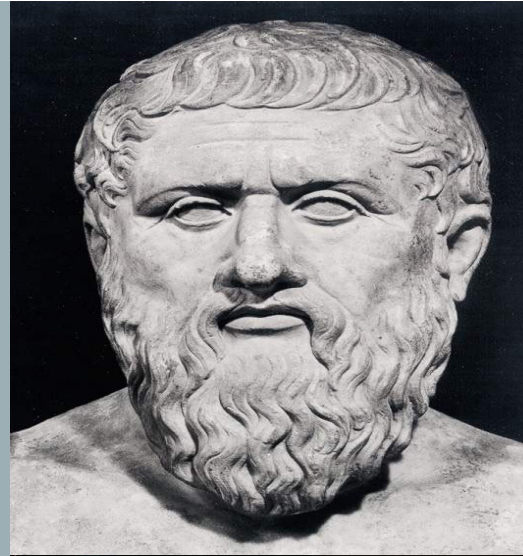


## MORALITY VS ETHICS



## INFLUENCERS OF ETHICS

- Confucius (552BC – 479BC)
  - Confucius
- Socrates (470BC – 399BC)
  - Inductive reasoning
  - Socratic method
- Plato (427BC – 348BC)
  - Virtues
  - Student of Socrates
- Aristotle (384BC – 322BC)
  - Student of Plato
  - Virtues



## BASIC AREAS OF ETHICS

- Meta-ethics
  - Virtues
- Normative ethics
  - Virtues
  - Duty-based
  - Consequential
- Applied ethics
  - Consequential
- Areas = types
- Approaches = how people arrive at decisions

- Meta-ethics: Deeper look at the main concepts of ethics. Abstract at times
  - What is good? Bad? Is it the same for everyone? Where does it come from?
- Normative: making decisions you know are normal
  - Three approaches
    - Value-Base Ethics
    - Consequential
    - Deontology
- Applied Ethics
  - Examples: stem cell research, cloning, assisted suicide
  - Application of ethics in real-world problems

### Applied Ethics

- Is bio piracy **good?**

### Normative Ethics

- Is stealing **good?**

### Meta Ethics

- What is **good?**

## FOUR PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS

- Beneficence – doing right
- Nonmaleficence – do no harm
- Autonomy – right to determine own care
- Justice – fairness

## PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS



AUTONOMY



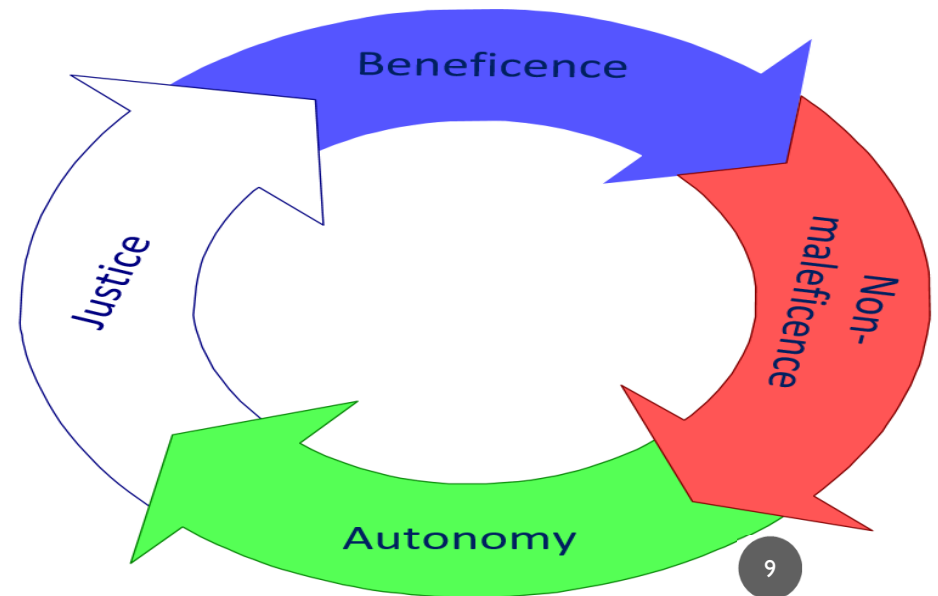
BENEFICENCE



NONMALEFICENCE



JUSTICE



## BENEFICENCE

- **Beneficence**
- Nonmaleficence
- Autonomy
- Justice

- Promote well being
- Back up to autonomy
- Covers and pursues the patients best interest
- Prevent or remove harm

**BENEFICENCE**

**ETHICAL  
PRINCIPLE**



## NONMALEFICENCE

- Beneficence
- **Nonmaleficence**
- Autonomy
- Justice

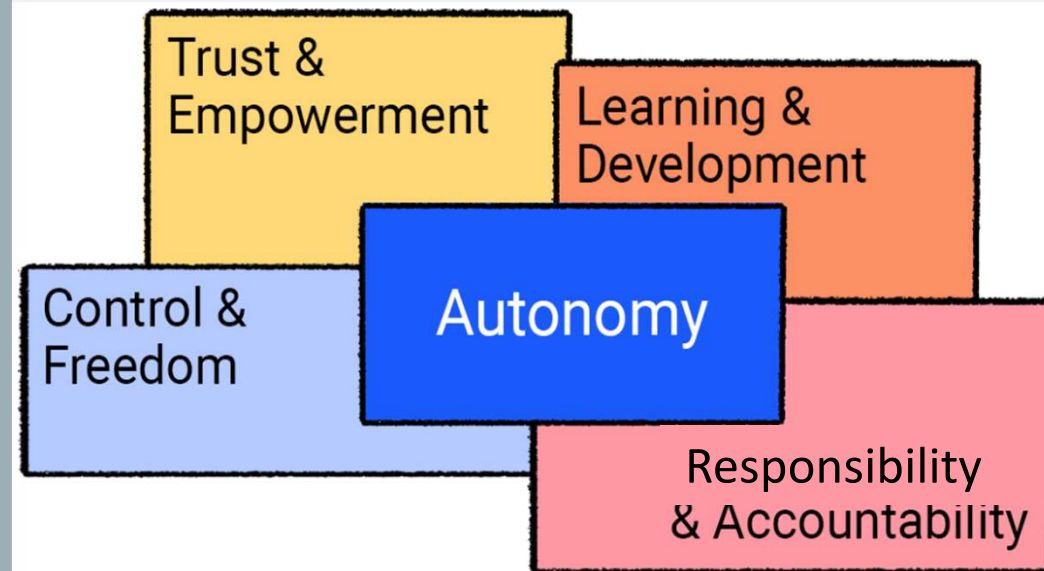
- Is a sister to beneficence
- Physician will do all means necessary to not harm the patient
- All actions should be weighted against any risks, benefits, etc.
- Treatment should only be Rx if it is known to help.



## AUTONOMY

- Beneficence
- Nonmaleficence
- **Autonomy**
- Justice

- Free roam over ones own care
- A patients decisions over-ride that of a physician



Remember: educating the patient is one of the most cost effective, influential, and long-term actions we can take.

## JUSTICE

- Beneficence
- Nonmaleficence
- Autonomy
- **Justice**

- Fairness
- Equality
- Equitable treatment
- Legal connotations as well



## ETHICS AND THE PATIENT

- The patient is and should be front and center when speaking in any type of health care terms.
- The patient experience is essential to their care, just as would be their encounter, medication, the food they are served and so on.
- The practitioner should be well versed in established ethical norms to best treat a patient ethically, with respect, empathy, and dignity.



## ETHICS AND THE PATIENT

- Trust
- RED: Respect, Empathy, and Dignity
  - Empathy – being able to place yourself in another’s shoes
  - Respect: attention to the individual and their feelings
    - Always remember that patients are, well, sick and may not be in the best mood.
  - Dignity: a result of one or two of the previous
    - Speaking valves restore feelings of dignity



## TYPES OF CONSENT

- Consent is an agreement, i.e. for care
- There are two types:
  - Informed
    - Interaction is explained and agreed upon by both parties
  - Implied
    - When the patients behavior suggests compliance with an action
    - Good Samaritan law
    - Duty to assist

- If consent is an agreement then can a physician actually fire a patient?
  - The answer is a sometimes a surprising “yes”
    - Noncompliance, insurance plan participation, nonpayment, failure to keep appointments
- With consent there is standard of care – more legal than medical these days



## SOME GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Don't misuse trust
- Leave the room if a patient is undressing (if applicable) or has another provider present. The same applies if an "intimate" procedure is being performed.
- Use appropriate language – be mindful of ethnicity, culture, religion, etc.
- Don't be judge
- Check personal boundaries
- It is not appropriate to visit the patient outside of the clinical area.
- Never promise anything



## ETHICAL DECISION MAKING MODELS

- Healthcare, more so than generally any other sector, is riddled with ethical dilemmas such as: what kind of treatment? Can that treatment harm the patient? Should I say anything if I think it will? Should this person be fired and/or fined?
- Two Models
  - Three Step Ethical Decision-Making Model
  - James Rest Model

- Three Step Ethical Decision-Making Model
  - Is it legal
  - Is it balanced
  - How does it make me feel
- James Rest
  - Moral Awareness
  - Moral Judgement
  - Moral Intention
  - Moral Action

## THREE STEP

- Is it legal?
  - If the answer to this question is no then there is no need to consider moving forward.
- Is it balanced?
  - Is it well-rounded, fair, and free of extremes
- How does it make me feel?
  - Based on culture, beliefs, religious background, etc.

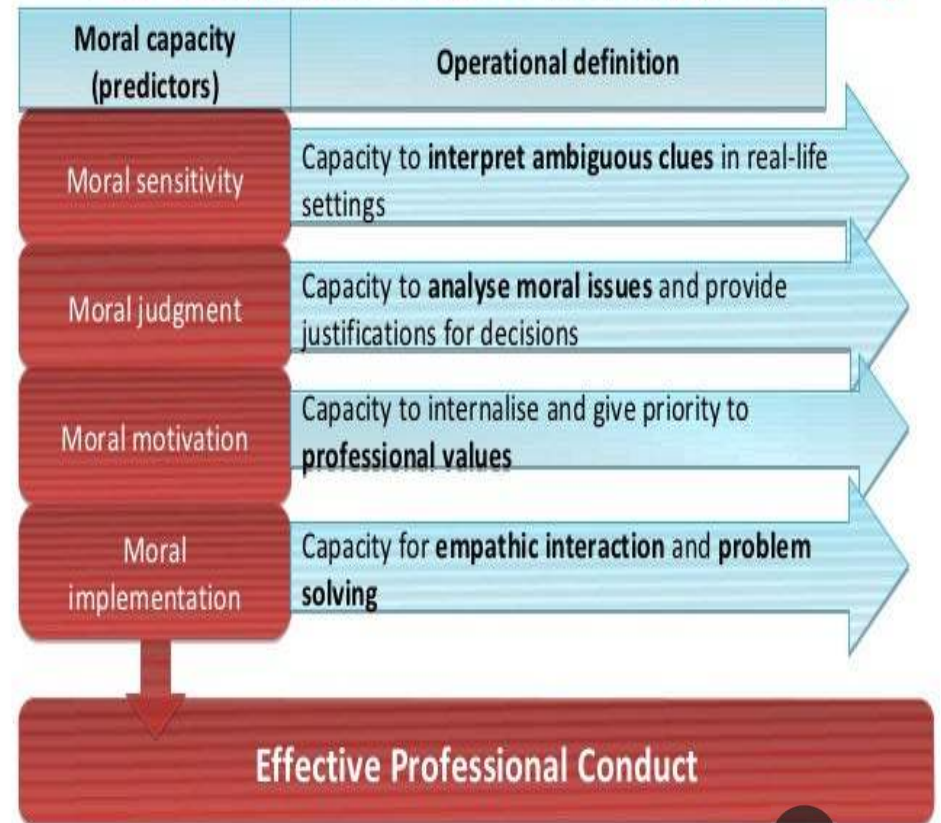
## Ethics vs. Law

Law	Ethics
Formal, written document	Unwritten principles
Interpreted by courts	Interpreted by each individual
Established by legislatures	Presented by philosophers, religious, professional groups
Applicable to everyone	Personal choice
Priority decided by court	Priority determined by individual
Court makes final decision	No external decision maker
Enforceable by police and courts	Limited enforcement

## JAMES REST MODEL

- Moral Awareness (sensitivity)
- Moral Judgement
- Moral Intention (motivation)
- Moral Action
- Each person moves through these four components when making ethical decisions

### Four Component Model of Morality (Rest, 1983)



## SO WHAT OF IT?

- Ethics - personal and subjective conclusions to what is right and wrong.
- Based on personal value systems
- Three basic areas: meta-ethics, normative, and applied
- Four principles: beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, autonomy
- To build trust we use RED: Respect, Empathy, and Dignity
- Consent can be implied or informed
- Three-Step decision making model: is it legal, is it free of extremes, how does it make me feel
- James Rest: moral awareness, moral judgement, moral intention, moral action, respectively.

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>Blanchard, K. H., & Peale, N.V. (1988). *The power of ethical management* (1st ed.). W. Morrow.

<sup>2</sup>Stanford, C. C., & Connor, V. J. (2014). *Ethics for health professionals*. Jones & Bartlett Learning.

<sup>3</sup>Zhao, J., Xu, X., & Pang, W. (2022). When do creative people engage in malevolent behaviors? the moderating role of moral reasoning. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 186, 111386. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2021.111386>