Third Edition

Health Care Ethics

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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Dedication

EILEEN E. MORRISON

The third edition of *Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century* is dedicated to all those who contributed their time and talent to update existing chapters or develop new ones. They shared their insights on topics that will help to balance ethics and healthcare practice in the 21st century. On a personal level, I would like to dedicate the third edition of this text to those who have provided both inspiration and advice. First, there is my family: Grant, Kate, Emery Aidan, and Morrigan Leigh, who listened, loved, and encouraged. There are also my colleagues, relatives, and friends—you each know how much you have meant to me during this process. Finally, there is my publisher, Michael Brown; my coeditor, Beth Furlong; and my Jones & Bartlett Learning editors, Chloe Falivene and Rebekah Linga, whose knowledge, guidance, and patience added so much to the quality and integrity of this work.

BETH FURLONG

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Preface

The writing of the third edition of *Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century* occurred during a time of great change for the healthcare system. In fact, health care is facing its greatest changes since the advent of Medicare and Medicaid. In light of this fact, chapters are included that address healthcare reform and its ethical issues. In addition, authors have contributed new chapters to emphasize the impact of technology and new options in long-term care. Existing chapters were updated; some chapters underwent major revisions to connect better to the challenges faced by health professionals in the post-reform era.

The third edition keeps the organizational model of previous editions to assist students in building their knowledge base of ethics and ability to relate ethics to patient issues across the lifespan. It also provides organizational issues, as well as examples of ethical issues germane to society. In homage to those who greatly influenced ethical thought, the model of a Greek temple organizes the chapters in this new edition (see **Figure FM-1**). The foundation of the temple is ethical theory and principles. Students need this foundation so they can analyze future issues in their practices based on theory and principles and not just on opinion.

The three main pillars of the model illustrate the foundation for the other sections of the text: individual, organizational, and societal issues. An introduction to each section sets the stage for the issues presented in the chapters that follow. Authors with extensive experience in healthcare practice and in ethics contributed their insights in these chapters. At the end of each chapter, discussion questions provide the opportunity for thoughtful analysis and application of the issues raised in the chapter. In addition, a new feature,

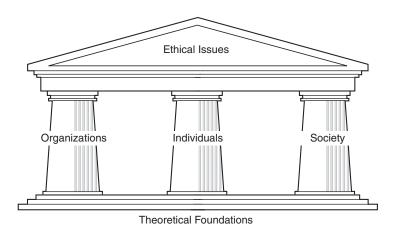


Figure FM-1 Healthcare Ethics Organizational Model

"Food for Thought," gives the student the ability to apply what he or she has learned to healthcare situations. These mini-cases can also lead to lively class discussions.

The authors of this new edition of *Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century* are experts in their fields, but they are not clairvoyant. Therefore, they cannot predict what will happen in the next 5–10 years, as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act becomes the norm for health care. However, one can always apply the principles and theories of ethics to whatever new situation arises. We hope that students will continue to ask themselves, "Is this the best ethical decision to make?" and "How do I know that this is the best decision?" as they progress through their careers. Patients and the community rely on the answers.