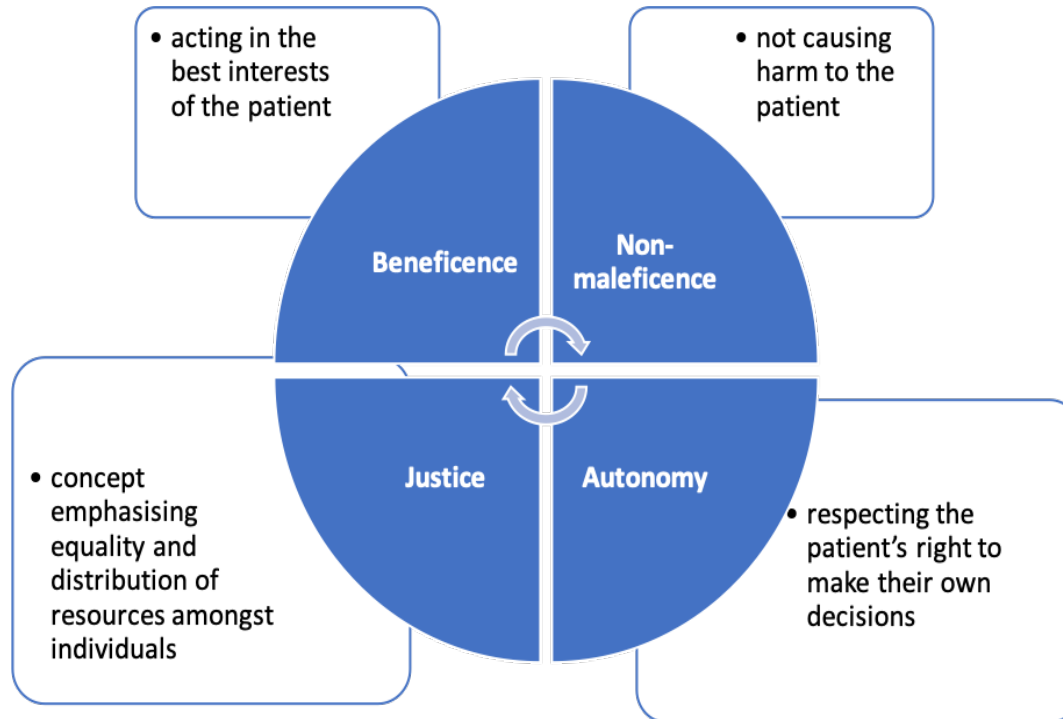


Advance Directives & Ethical Issues

 **The Elliot**

A Member of  **SOLUTIONHEALTH**

4 Principles of Bioethics



What do Advance Care Directives have to do with Ethics???

- ▶ Legal documents
 - ▶ 2 documents
 - ▶ Durable Power of Attorney
 - ▶ Living Will
- ▶ Addresses the type of care you would or would not want when you are ill
 - ▶ Health Care Agents: spokespersons designated in an advance directive that know what you would or would not want and speak on your behalf when you do not understand your treatment
- ▶ Goals of advance care planning reflect the 4 principles of Ethics
 - ▶ Autonomy: right to self determination in light of goals, preferences, family
 - ▶ Beneficence: promoting good
 - ▶ Non-maleficence: avoid harm
 - ▶ Justice: fairness
- ▶ Becomes a part of your chart
 - ▶ In all medical and caring professions, compassion is a vital motivator and tool.

Why do an Advance Care Directive?

- ▶ Minimize the burden of decision making on your agent
- ▶ Reduce the likelihood of conflicts between your agent, family members and health care providers
- ▶ Minimize the likelihood of over- or under-treatment
- ▶ Maximize the likelihood that medical care serves the patient's goals



What's The Difference between Durable Power of Attorney and Living Will?

- ▶ Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA): Contingent and durable
 - ▶ Substituted judgment
 - ▶ Only when patient is incapacitated
 - ▶ When patient regains capacity, the DPOA is suspended.
- ▶ Living Will:
 - ▶ Patient not able to make/express own decisions and when patient is near death or permanently unconscious without hope of recovery.
 - ▶ An instructive directive reflects the ethical principle of autonomy and requires patients' wishes be respected by health care providers.
 - ▶ Created to prevent unwanted, invasive medical care at the end of life.

How do I get started?

- ▶ Reflect upon your values
 - ▶ What gives your life meaning and purpose?
 - ▶ How do you define life?
- ▶ Spirituality/Cultural/Beliefs
 - ▶ How do your beliefs influence your care?
- ▶ Planning ahead
 - ▶ What would you like your last days to be like?
 - ▶ What would be important for you when you are dying



Am I doing it right?

Advance Care Directive is YOUR document

Health care agents and health care providers need to respect your choices and values.

- ▶ Who to talk with:
 - ▶ Family, especially the one you may name as your agent(s)
 - ▶ Your doctors

- ▶ Who to provide with a document:
 - ▶ Health care agents
 - ▶ Doctors
 - ▶ Hospitals
 - ▶ Resident facilities



How Can I Complete an Advance Care Directive?

- ▶ Available free of charge at local hospitals
 - ▶ Documents provided
 - ▶ Copies also provided
- ▶ At the Elliot Hospital, Care Coordination Department
 - ▶ Located on first floor, about three doors down from main desk
 - ▶ Contact either
 - ▶ Judy Markell, Administrative Assistant at 663-2338
 - ▶ Barbara Brawley, Notary at 663-2300



References

- www.healthynh.com
- Pearlman, Robert A., MD, et.al. 2013. *Advance Care Planning and Advance Directives*.
[https://depts.Washington.edu/bhdept/ethics-medicine/bioethics-topics/detail/54](https://depts.washington.edu/bhdept/ethics-medicine/bioethics-topics/detail/54)