

Beauchamp and Childress The Four Principles

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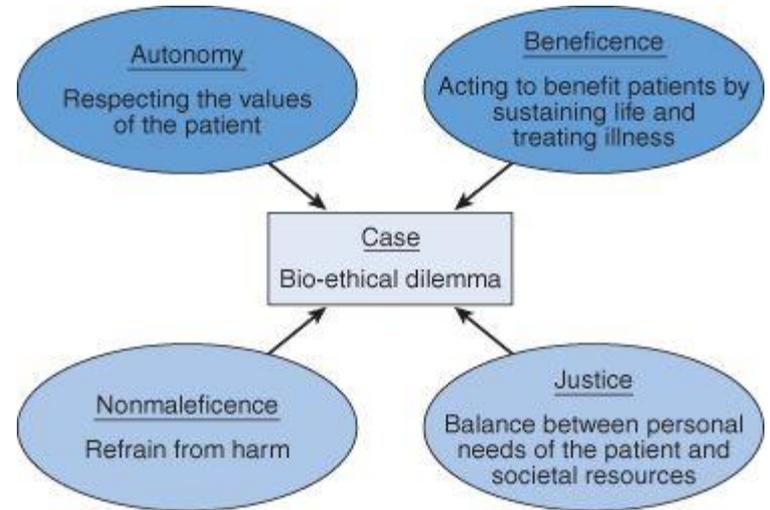
The Balancing Act

- Many normative ethics theories
 - How do we respond
 - How do we choose and make decisions
 - In 2009, Beauchamp and Childress proposed four principles to use to help in guiding one to ethical decisions
 - Are between categorical imperatives, moral statements and virtues
 - Argued that there is a common morality and could agree on these principles
 - They are broad principles



The Principles

- Respect for Autonomy
- Non-maleficence
- Beneficence
- Justice



Respect for Autonomy

- Any notion of moral decision-making assumes that rational agents are involved in making informed and voluntary decisions.
- Is a negative obligation not to interfere in choice
- As a positive obligation to provide appropriate information so informed decision can be made
- People are free to make their own decisions as long as they do not harm others.
 - Informed Consent



<http://nickandzuzu.com/2013/08/autonomy/>

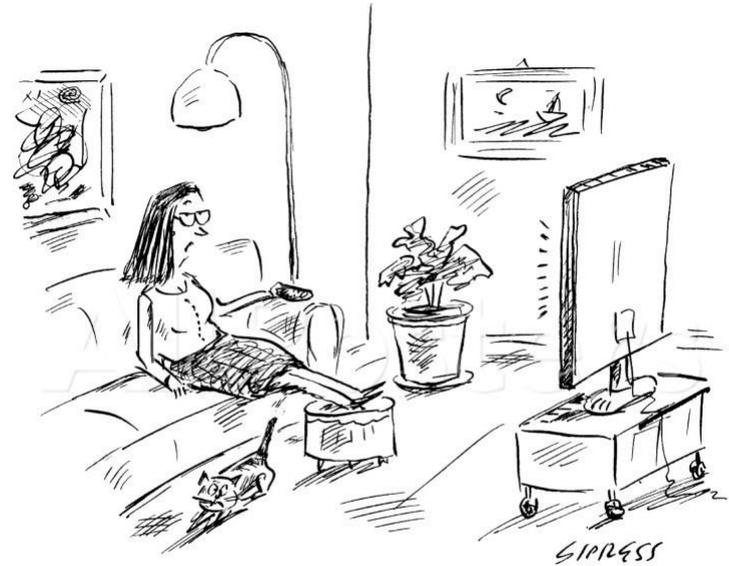




<https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/philosophy316/2014/02/24/public-health-and-respect-for-personal-autonomy/>

Non-Maleficence

- Do know harm.
- Thwarting or defeating someone's interest
- A negative duty or obligation
 - Research ethics
 - Pollution
 - Environments



"Ask your doctor if taking a pill to solve all your problems is right for you."

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/547398529690437577/>



Beneficence

- Health care providers have a duty to be of a benefit to the patient, as well as to **take positive steps to prevent** and to remove harm from the patient.
- Actively promote well being
- It is a positive duty
- Is applied both to individual patients, and to the good of society as a whole.
 - Raises issues of paternalism and conflict with respect for autonomy



Is pushing the button beneficence?



<http://ifedayoadekeye.blogspot.com/2016/01/patient-autonomy-fundamental-right-of.html>



Justice

- All persons treated with equal respect.
- Aristotle, "**giving to each that which is his due.**"
- Fairness
- Distributive justice who gets treatment when there is a shortage.
 - “In fact, our society uses a variety of factors as criteria for distributive justice, including the following:
 - To each person an equal share
 - To each person according to need
 - To each person according to effort
 - To each person according to contribution
 - To each person according to merit
 - To each person according to free-market exchanges”
(Beauchamp & Childress, 1994, p. 330)
 - Beauchamp T, Childress J. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics, 7th Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013



"Uh-oh, your coverage doesn't seem to include illness."

http://bioethjpo.blogspot.com/2015_01_01_archive.html



Summary

1. Beauchamp and Childress proposed four principles that they argued are common morality (all can agree to) to guide people and analyzing bioethical dilemmas.
2. These are:
 1. Respect for Autonomy
 2. Non-Maleficence
 3. Beneficence
 4. And Justice
3. They are extensively used by bioethicist as they apply different normative ethical systems in their work.