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ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

The emergency department is a place of challenging ethical dilemmas and little time and resources to solve them. *Ethical Dilemmas in Emergency Medicine* provides invaluable information, perspectives, and solutions to common ethical dilemmas in emergency medicine. It addresses important topics seen in the emergency department, including triage, medicolegal issues, privacy and confidentiality, social media, difficult patients, minors, research, patient safety, disasters, suicide, and end-of-life issues.

The accompanying educational modules provide a unique educational opportunity for resident and staff education on ethical issues in emergency medicine. Featuring twenty-three layers of ethical dilemmas in emergency medicine, along with corresponding multimedia resources, including media presentations, case-based discussions, and multiple-choice questions, this book is an invaluable resource for residents in training as well as practicing physicians.

Catherine Marco, MD, FACEP, is a professor at Wright State University in the Department of Emergency Medicine. She has been active in the education, research, and writing arenas. She has written numerous research manuscripts and book chapters on medical ethics, resuscitation, and pain management.

Raquel M. Schears, MD, MPH, FACEP, is a full-time clinician and scholar at the Mayo Clinic. Currently, she is an associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Schears has written peer-reviewed articles, taught in several residency programs, and has conducted clinical research. Her publications reveal career interests in the ethical dilemmas of life-sustaining interventions, including advance directives, organ donation and informed consent.

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Ethical Dilemmas in Emergency Medicine

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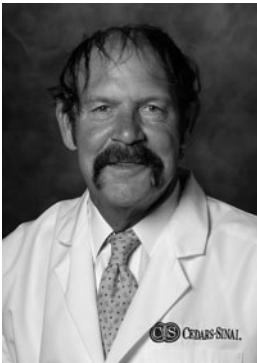
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PREFACE

The practice of emergency medicine is a complex mission. Successful practice includes emergency stabilization, patient assessment, diagnostic tests, and medical interventions. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and the American Board of Emergency Medicine have established the Emergency Medicine Milestone Project, a framework for assessment of residents in training in twenty-three milestones, from Emergency Stabilization to Teamwork.

In this complicated environment, ethical dilemmas frequently arise. The complex, time-pressured environment makes the assessment and management of ethical dilemmas challenging. Thus, a study of ethical issues and principles guiding their application in the clinical environment is essential.

This book includes twenty-three chapters, analogous to the twenty-three Emergency Milestones, and in respect to the specialty of Emergency Medicine, the twenty-third recognized medical specialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties. Each chapter addresses an important ethical topic in emergency medicine, including issues, controversies, and a summary of Ethics Takeout Tips. Available online are educational modules for use in teaching ethical principles at any level. It is our hope that this book will serve as a valuable resource to emergency providers and educators.

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