MORAL DISTRESS SCALE

10  Worst Possible Unbearable
9   Intense Dreadful Horrible
8   Miserable Distressing
7   Nagging Uncomfortable Troublesome
6   Mild Annoying
5   No Distress

Assessing the Problem

ISSUE
• What is the Situation?
  Does the conflict involve:
  Healthcare provider/s
  Patient or Family
  Organization
• Systemic Factors
  Benefits, harms
  Rights/interests of others
  Costs and resources
  Legal

PERSPECTIVES
• Patients/Family Concerns
  Options/Resources
  Relationships
  Values
• Healthcare Providers’ Concerns
  Standards of care
  Relationships
  Professional reputation
  Values
• Quality of Life Issues
  Life expectancy
  Disability/suffering

LOCUS OF DECISION
• Who has authority to act?
  Patient/Family
  Nurse/Physician/Agency
• Who has the final say?
  Patient/Family
  Healthcare Provider
  Other
• Which ethics inform?
  Autonomy, Competency
  Truth-telling, Harm
  Futility, Confidentiality
  Caring, Justice, Others

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