

ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING MAP		
1. ISSUE	2. PERSPECTIVES OF THOSE INVOLVED	3. LOCUS OF DECISION
<p><i>What is the situation or dilemma?</i> (Outline briefly)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Basic medical problem ▶ Medical indications for treatment ▶ What decision needs to be made? ▶ What are the patient/family preferences? ▶ What are the preferences of healthcare providers? 	<p><i>Patient's/family's concerns</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Adequate disclosure ▶ Capacity to choose ▶ Ability to refuse therapy ▶ Coercion, duress or abandonment ▶ Advanced directives ▶ Surrogate decision makers ▶ Patient health vs family finances ▶ Religion, values & culture 	<p><i>Who has authority to act?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Does physician have authority to force care on the patient? ▶ Does patient have authority to refuse or demand care? ▶ Does family have authority to refuse or demand care? ▶ Does authority lie with other agent?
<p><i>Who does what to whom and under what circumstances?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Who is involved in the situation? ▶ What actions are planned? ▶ What information is being given & withheld? ▶ Who will experience consequences? ▶ How will the decision be achieved? 	<p><i>The Healthcare Providers' concerns</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Professional codes ▶ Standard of care ▶ Awareness of community norms ▶ Trust and professional reputation ▶ Diagnosis & prognosis ▶ Goals of therapy ▶ Efficacy/inefficacy ▶ Futility/utility ▶ Loyalty issues ▶ Communication with family/pt ▶ Institutional concerns & financial constraints 	<p><i>How was the decision actually made in terms of power?</i></p> <p>Who makes decisions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Doctor ▶ Family ▶ Patient ▶ Nurse ▶ Administration ▶ Other
<p><i>Is there a conflict of values?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Between healthcare provider and patient/family ▶ Among healthcare providers ▶ Between healthcare provider(s) and organization ▶ Between the family and patient ▶ Between patient and 3rd party payer 	<p><i>Contextual/systemic, & quality of life issues</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Relevance of benefits, harms and rights of others ▶ Interests of others ▶ Protection of others ▶ Cost of care ▶ Allocation of resources ▶ Legal obligations ▶ Effects on community and the medical practice relations? ▶ Life expectancy ▶ Potential for disability & suffering 	<p><i>What ethical principles inform the situation?</i> (Examples)</p> <p><i>Autonomy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Does the patient have the right to refuse care? ▶ Is the patient informed enough to accept/refuse care? <p><i>Competency:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Does the patient/family understand the diagnosis and treatment? <p><i>Truth-telling</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How much information should the healthcare providers provide? ▶ Does the family have a right to know? <p><i>Harm:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Will not telling cause harm? ▶ Will telling cause harm? ▶ Will forcing care cause harm? ▶ Will not forcing care cause harm?