End of Life Decision-making

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End of Life Decision-making

- Refusal of treatment
  - Legal
    - **Schloendorff v. The Society of New York Hospital** (1914)
      - Chief Justice Cardoza:
        “Every human being of adult years and sound mind has a right to determine what shall be done with his own body”
    - **In re President and Directors of Georgetown College, Inc., 331 F. 2d 1000.1022** (1964)
      - “foolish, unreasonable, or absurd decisions…”
    - Karen Ann Quinlan (1975): mechanical ventilation; life sustaining treatment; encourages living will legislation at state level (right to die)
    - Nancy Beth Cruzan (1990): artificial nutrition/hydration; life sustaining interventions; evidentiary standard
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- Standards of decision-making
  - Informed consent (competent/decisional capacity)
  - Decision-making if lost decisional capacity
    - Advance Directives: Living wills
    - Advance Directives: Durable Power of Health Attorney or surrogate decision-maker

- Standards
  - Substituted judgment
  - Best Interest
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**A Good Death**

**AGS (1997)**
- Symptoms
- Support of autonomy
- Advance care planning
- Pt/family satisfaction
- Quality of life
- Family burden
- Provider continuity

**IOM (1997)**
- Quality of life
- Physical well-being
- Psychosocial
- Spiritual well-being
- Perception of care
- Family well-being

**E/E (1998)**
- Symptoms
- Social relationships
- Economic/caregiver needs
- Hopes/expectations
- Spiritual needs
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NIH consensus (2004): “Subgroups of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, age, and disease states experience end-of-life care differently, and these differences remain poorly understood.”
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What is necessary for someone in your culture to die a dignified and peaceful death?
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How are decisions about end of life care best made in your culture?
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How do Western approaches to end of life decision making work with members of your community?
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How do people in your community view:

- Living Wills
- Surrogate decision making
- Palliative care
- Hospice care
- Withdrawal of care
- Medical futility
How can individual health care providers improve end of life care?