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UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
MEDICAL SCIENCES CAMPUS
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Legal, Ethical Economics and Administrative Aspects in Medicine
Prepared for: Fourth Year Medical Students
Required Course
1985-86
A. “Ethics is the study of rational processes for determining the best course of action in the face of conflicting choices.” (assignment: “Why Study Medical Ethics”).

B. Aims of the Course:
   1. To develop a Method of Ethical reasoning
      a. Be able to recognize an ethical problem.
      b. Be able to formulate an ethical statement and differentiate it from an empirical or an esthetic statement and/or a command.
      c. Ethical decisions are involved with “good or evil” (or a range between the two extremes), “better or worse”, etc.
      d. A choice on a course of action, of necessity means that other choices are not chosen or acted upon.
      e. On the basis of above outline a method of ethical reasoning.
   2. To distinguish between deontological and consequentialist ethics.
   3. Realize the universality of an ethical judgement or statement.
   4. Realize that many ethical problems may not have one answer.
   5. Understand the following terms in relation to ethical problems and their solutions.
      a. Rigor
      b. Pluralism
      c. Levels of problem solving (Aiken)
      d. Limitations of “Codes of Moral Conduct”
      e. Relationship of ethics with “law”
      f. “Rights”
      g. Respect and autonomy (Liberty?)

Case Studies from Brody
   Case 6 - Terminal Care and Quality of Life
   Case 7 - Determination of Ethical Participation