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Leadership and management

N443

Fall 2020

Journal #2: Lessons from the Case of Jahi McMath

In week 4, we discuss ethical practice. The journal article of the case of Jahi McMath relates to this topic. It presents the story of a girl who went for elective surgery for sleep apnea and ended up brain dead after physicians recommended taking her off the ventilator because she was declared brain dead by a judge. However, the body was released to the mother on a ventilator to transfer her to New Jersey, where laws are not allowed to pronounce somebody's death because of neurologic circumstances. So, the family kept her alive this way for another four years.

The ethical dilemma this brings is how somebody can decide to prolong the biological life of organs when somebody is dead. Usually, this is allowed for a limited time to enable the family to think about organ donations but not to keep somebody in this condition for years.

What I learned this week about myself as a nurse is that it is challenging to go through ethical issues and living wills, especially when they may conflict with our personal views.

Reference

Truog, R.D. (2018). Lessons from the case of Jahi McMath. *Hastings Center Report*, 48, S70-S73. <https://ezproxy.lakeviewcol.edu:2097/10.1002/hast.961>