

Journal #2:

This week in class we learned about Ethics, Advanced Directives, Advocacy, patient rights. Some patients may not want to discuss Advanced Directives and many patients do not have an advanced directive. In some cases, the patient is a minor child. In the case of Jahi McMath who was declared brain dead by 2 different physicians, the family refused to discontinue life support. Instead, the McMath family decided to transfer their child to a hospital in New Jersey that allowed the continuation of life support. The ethical concern raised by this issue is the determination of death. New Jersey is the only state that prohibits the determination of death by neurological criteria when this would violate the personal religious beliefs of the individual (Troug, 2018). The question arises as to when an individual is declared legally dead and if brain death is recognized by one's religion. Often times when families disagree about the termination of life support services, whether between other family members or physicians, the case is brought to the courts to decide. Often the court will decide to end life support services. Although no parent should bear the loss of a child, one should ask why continue life support services when no brain activity is detectable.

Reference:

Troug, R. D. (2018). Lessons from the Case of Jahi McMath. *Hastings Center Report*. 48(6), Pp70-73; <https://ezproxy.lakeviewcol.edu:2097/10.1002/hast.961>