

Emily Konrad

Journal #1

The story about Jahi McMath is an excellent example of an ethical struggle in healthcare. Two different physicians diagnosed her with brain death; however, another state's law allowed the patient to live for nearly five more years (Truog, 2018). This story also touches on some of the principles of ethical reasoning discussed in class. The patient cannot make choices independently and is also a minor, which relates to paternalism. Nurses and other healthcare professionals providing care for Jahi act in beneficence and want what is medically best for her. On the other hand, the mother makes her own choices for Jahi and has the right to fight for what she believes is in her best interest.

The most challenging concept discussed this week is the difference between morals and ethics. Determining which is an ethical matter and which is a moral matter is complicated. It is imperative to understand ethical dilemmas and how to handle them as a nurse. Dealing with an individual's health and livelihood puts nurses in a riskier position. However, the class content helped me to feel more comfortable with the principles of ethical reasoning. Applying them to real-life scenarios helps to prepare for specific situations we may encounter as working nurses.

Reference:

Truog, R. D. (2018). Lessons from the case of Jahi McMath. *Hastings Center Report*, 48, S70–S73. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hast.961>