

- **How does this journal article/current events/concept relate to the course material**

Ethics is the topic of the class for leadership this week. In this special report on the case of Jahi McMath, the distinction between life and death was brought up as a subject. Many things in medicine and life do not have a sharp distinction between one extreme or another. Most intellectual concepts exist on a continuum rather than two distinct concepts. Jahi McMath could be considered on the continuum between being alive and being dead (Truog, 2018). Her doctors had determined that she was legally brain dead, with no hope of being brought back to self-sustainable life. Is it ethical to discontinue healthcare for a client with no prognosis of ever recovering when her family wishes to proceed with care?

Conversely, is it ethical for her family members to demand that the healthcare resources be dedicated to one who has no hope of recovering when those resources may be better used with someone that has more hope of recovering? Ethical questions such as this one do not typically have one straightforward answer. This nursing student's opinion is that while human life is sacred, resources should be allocated to ensure the most amount of people can be helped. Those that have a one-in-a-million hope of recovery should let go.

#### 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>