Ethics Analysis Worksheet

# PERSPECTIVES & VALUES

List involved individuals and what they value.

# GATHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

This is the 4-Box Method developed by A. Jonsen, M. Siegler, W. Winslade. Clinical Ethics: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in Clinical Medicine, 7th Ed. New York: McGraw-Hill-Medical, 2010.

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| Medical Indications | Patient Preferences |
| Quality of Life | Contextual Features |

# ETHICS QUESTION

What is the ethics question? Use ethical obligations or values to state the question, connecting them to key medical/contextual information.

# ETHICAL ANALYSIS

Use ethical frameworks (consequences, rules/principles, virtues/values, social relations, and paradigm cases) to respond to the ethics question. Take all approaches into consideration before forming recommendations.

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| **CONSEQUENCES**  Which course of action is likely to produce the greatest benefit for the patient? For everyone involved?  Tip: Consider harm/benefit broadly, from clinical, moral, spiritual, cultural perspectives. |
| **RULES/PRINCIPLES**  What are the different rules (e.g., laws or policies) or moral principles/obligations (e.g., respect for autonomy, beneficence) that come into conflict in this case?  Tip: Consider which of the four principles of bioethics come into conflict in this case. Which should be given priority? Can you articulate why? |
| **VIRTUES**  Consider what it means to be excellent in your role as a healthcare professional? How do different virtues help guide and justify an ethical response?  Tip: Consider virtues like integrity, empathy, trustworthiness, respectfulness, curiosity, humility, etc. |
| **SOCIAL RELATIONS**  How do interpersonal relations (e.g. parent-child) and social norms (e.g., related to race, class, gender, etc.) impact analysis of this case and moral responsibilities?  Tip: Consider how power imbalances intersect with different interpersonal and societal relationships. |
| **PARADIGM CASES**  Casuistry: Are there settled paradigm cases that inform your analysis? How is your case similar & different?  Tip: Consider well-known cases as well as cases from your own hospital or region. |

Write your analysis here, consider each approach…

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above analysis, construct 2-3 recommendations about next steps. Back-up your recommendations with ethical reasons. For example, “The ethical obligation to respect autonomous patient preferences justifies withdrawing artificial nutrition and hydration.”