Ethical Issues in Blood Banking:

How would you “crack the case”? 
Don Gotto... Part 1
Session Description

Interactive  Two Ethical Approaches  Progressive Case
Session Objectives

• Examine ethical case study involving blood bank issues and:

  • -1- Identify ethical issues present
  • -2- Select appropriate ethical approach
  • -3- Propose next steps with justification
What's Ahead?

• Introduction to five key ethical principles
• Deontological Ethical Approach

• Teleological Ethical Approach
• Example of Ethical Approaches in Action

• Progressive Case Study involving the Blood Bank
• Closing Thoughts
Introduction to Five Key Ethical Principles

- Autonomy
- Veracity
- Fidelity
- Beneficence
- Justice
### Five Key Ethical Principles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRINCIPLE #</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PHRASE DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 - Justice</td>
<td>Impartiality, fairness to all, justness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 - Autonomy</td>
<td>Self-governing/directed, moral independence</td>
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<tr>
<td>#3 - Veracity</td>
<td>Truthfulness, honesty, full disclosure to patients</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 - Fidelity</td>
<td>Faithful devotion to one’s vows, loyalty, allegiance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5 - Beneficence</td>
<td>Doing good, act of kindness, charity, goodness</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Deontological Ethical Approach

Right & wrong = inherent

Action independent of consequences

Means more valuable than outcome
# Five Key Ethical Principles in Deontological Ethical Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principles</th>
<th>Description in Deontological Ethical Theory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 - Justice</td>
<td>It is wrong to deny anyone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 - Autonomy</td>
<td>A person’s beliefs should always be respected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 - Veracity</td>
<td>Truth-telling is always right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 - Fidelity</td>
<td>Breaking promises or confidentiality is always wrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5 - Beneficence</td>
<td>Consequences not considered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teleological Ethical Approach

End result more important than process

Good consequences = action is right

Bad consequences = action is wrong
# Five Key Ethical Principles in Teleological Ethical Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principles</th>
<th>Description in Deontological Ethical Theory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 - Justice</td>
<td>Deny someone if more harm than good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 - Autonomy</td>
<td>Respect beliefs only when more good than harm will be done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 - Veracity</td>
<td>Truth-telling is right only when more good than harm results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 - Fidelity</td>
<td>Consequences determine whether one should break promise/confidentiality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5 - Beneficence</td>
<td>Consider consequences—actions taken only when consequences are good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example of Deontological & Teleological Approaches in Action

The Case

- Patient has terminal illness

The Issue

- Tell the patient or not
Example of Deontological & Teleological Approaches in Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deontological Approach</th>
<th>Teleological Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocated telling the patient regardless of the consequences</td>
<td>Advocates telling the patient only if the consequences of said action would be beneficial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many times a mixture of both approaches is employed whereas a specific situation may call for one approach over the other.
Progressive Case Study Involving Blood Bank Issues

CAN YOU “CRACK THE CASE”?
Progressive Case: The “Original” Characters

Mr. Cell - The Patient

Herbie - Dayshift Tech

You - Evening Shift Tech
The Results & Interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Cells +</th>
<th>Patient Serum +</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-A</td>
<td>Anti-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Herbie's Interpretation: ABO Type AB
Herbie has made previous errors on the job

Herbie has history of being threatening to co-workers
Part 1 Questions.....

What ethical approach would drive the way you handle this case and why?

Would you approach Herbie about the situation directly? If so, what would you say to him? If not, why not?

Would you report the situation to lab administration? If so, why? If not, why not?
More Facts Revealed...

• Mr. Cell needs blood (2 units pRBCs)

• Co-worker says: just correct Herbie’s errors

• You are swamped with numerous stats and feel overwhelmed
Part 2 Questions.....

How would you respond to your co-worker's suggestion? Justify your response.

What would you do at this juncture to ensure that there are no transfusion reactions due to BB error?

Would you tell Herbie of recent events? If so, what would you say? If not, why not?
And the Saga Continues...

BB manager takes unexpected medical leave

You are asked to cover manager responsibilities

No evidence that Herbie has been approached about his error
And the Saga Continues...

Staff audit underway-- Poor staff appraisals probably mean reduction in staff—no replacements

Not enough bodies to do the work as is

Could Herbie's position be eliminated?
From management standpoint, what is your next course of action with “the Herbie Situation” and why?

How would you reply to hospital administration regarding Herbie’s performance?
And the “Beat Goes On!”

Manager returns 3 months later

Manager furious with “Herbie situation”
Part 4 Questions.....

How would you respond to the manager’s inquiry? Justify your response

How, if any, would your ethical approach evolve as this case unfolds?
Food for Thought....

- If you could write the next installment of the case with questions/issues for consideration, what would it be and why????
Closing Thoughts--Don Gotto... Part 2
Thank You! 😊

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