

# Ethics in Radiological Protection for Medical Diagnosis and Treatment

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## Chapter 5: Sensitizing questions for reviewing clinical practice

## 5.2 Sensitizing questions

- **Core and additional ethical values are highly abstract**
- **Specific ethical dilemmas in practical situations often involve more than one value, and more than one possible interpretation of a value**
- **Example:**

## 5.2 Sensitizing questions

- **Sensitizing questions help users of the evaluation method identify when specific core and additional values are at stake**
- **The sensitizing questions are examples and many other examples could be considered**

## 5.2 Sensitizing questions

- **Core ethical values are highly abstract**
- **Specific ethical dilemmas in practical situations often involve more than one value, and more than one possible interpretation of a value**
- **Sensitizing questions are examples to help users of the evaluation method identify when specific core and additional values are at stake**

## Sensitizing questions:

### Dignity / autonomy

- Has the patient's privacy been respected in the imaging procedure?
- Is care of the patient influenced by stereotypes and stigma?
- Have we discussed with the patient the role they would like to take in decision-making and who speaks for them if they are unable?
- Has the patient's health information been shared only as necessary for their care?

**Sensitizing  
questions:**

**Harm-benefit  
tradeoff**

**Beneficence/non-  
maleficence**

- Does the procedure provide a medical and/or psychosocial benefit?
- Have the risks of harms been minimized?
- What are the patient's goals of care and how does the procedure serve those?
- Is there a risk of medicalizing or overdiagnosing the patient?

## **Sensitizing questions:**

## **Prudence / Precaution**

- Does our evidence meet appropriate standards?
- Do we need to act on considerations for which we have less than ideal evidence?
- Have we considered unintended consequences?
- Have we discussed relevant uncertainty with the patient/caregivers?

## **Sensitizing questions:**

### **Justice / Solidarity**

- If resources are limited, what principles are we using to decide their fair distribution?
- Are our imaging and treatment practices financially and environmentally sustainable patients, systems, society?
- Are there social influences that have created inequitable health outcomes and/or barriers to care for the patient? How can we address the social determinants of health?



## Sensitizing questions:

### Accountability and transparency / honesty

- Have the effects of ionizing radiation been shared with the patient?
- Have we provided information about relevant alternatives? Facilitated necessary referrals?
- In the case of adverse events/near misses, has the patient/family been informed? How have we taken steps to address mis-trust?
- Have we made an honest attempt to help the patient appreciate the prognosis?

## Sensitizing questions:

## Inclusiveness / Empathy

- Is the patient included in the discussion of treatment options?
- Have we taken steps to ask about and understand the patient's perspective?
- Have we expressed empathy in concrete ways?
- Have we involved the whole medical team in discussions?
- Have we listened to the patient's concerns without judgment?

# Your questions

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***Thank you for your attention!***

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