



ETHICS: HOW IT AFFECTS MEDICAL CARE AND MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

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MEDICAL ETHICS

- It is not a new idea.
- Ethical behavior is a given and has been for a long time.
- As medical technology has evolved, some principles have been enunciated.
- They, in some ways, state the obvious.



ONE COMMONLY USED APPROACH

- Do good – Beneficence
- Do no harm – Non-maleficence
- Allow freedom – Autonomy
- Be fair - Justice



EXPANDING ON THESE BASICS

- Sometimes there is conflict between these generalizations
 - Benefit to one may harm another
 - One person's autonomy may affect someone else's autonomy
 - Justice for one may be unjust to another
 - Hurting someone may help another



These are not rules

These are not dictums

But they help you to analyze a situation you are
faced with.



As medical technologists you may be involved in some of these issues.

There are two broad groups:

- Day to day common laboratory tests
- Some newer technologies



DAY TO DAY TESTS AND LABORATORY PROCEDURES

- Doing daily CBC, electrolytes and liver function tests.
- Running panels instead of single tests



LET US DISCUSS THESE



SPECIAL AND EVOLVING TESTS

- Dissecting out sub-groups
- Confirmatory test that do not change management
- Tests that have not been proven
- Genetic testing



LET US DISCUSS THESE



SUMMARY

- Think about what and why of what you do
- Cost issues
- Confidentiality
- Who has control?
- What can you do as a “person in the trenches”?

