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Ethics and Morality

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The Relationship between Ethics and Morality

Both ethics and morality associate with what is right and wrong; they are closely related and can be interchanged on different occasions. It is customary to refer to ethical concepts where an individual would speak of moral judgment. Ethics has a code of conduct that guides people on how to lead their lives and make decisions by providing a moral map that one can use during stressful situations (Yasir & Mohamad, 2016). However, morality is more personal because if one is faced with a difficult choice, they have to make a decision that is based on their beliefs even if ethical codes are presented to them. After all, it governs a person's behavior.

The Relationship between Ethics and Legality

Ethics and law try to take charge of human action. The law has clear rules that citizens need to abide in. Therefore an ethical person can adhere to the regulations created for them. However, each of them relates differently. One's moral code of conduct can collide with the law if the rules do not align with what they believe in (Erhard et al., 2016). The law is often imposed on people, and some of the statutes make one question their ethical nature forcing them to break their code of conduct to follow the law. For instance, in a business setting, accepting a bribe is against the organization's code of ethics, and the law is against bribery as well. Still, some circumstances may force someone to offer or receive a bribe to save themselves from a scandalous ordeal. Sometimes ethical conduct can be converted to the law, but a law cannot be converted to ethical behavior.

Ethics in terms of the Medical World

In the medical world, ethics are implemented to maintain efficiency in hospital operations, and it deals with the difference between what is described right or wrong in a given situation. Medical ethics is concerned with the responsibilities of the hospital, doctors to the

patients, including other health professionals. Notably, ethical decisions in medicine are different because they help to prevent any harm that may befall a patient under their care since they have to make serious medical decisions that determine whether the patient lives or dies (Iavicoli et al., 2018). The medical ethics are different because hospitals are supposed to protect the patient's delicate personal information and medical history. Normally, ethical decisions are easier when a medical decision follows a medical code of ethics. However, ethical decisions become hard to make when faced with a moral dilemma such as unplugging the life support machine since there is no hope left for the patient, and the family does not want to. Also, it becomes ethically hard to make a decision when the law does not permit the treatment of immigrants without official documents.

An immigrant patient in need of medical attention is brought in the hospital with no proper documentation, and the law forbids hospitals to tend to immigrants. A doctor knows that they have to help anyone in need. According to the situation above, an ethical principle that can be used is justice. In medical ethics, ³ the principle of justice claims there should be an element of fairness when making decision regarding offering treatment to patients in their institution (Bufacchi, 2020). The doctor will also need to apply the maleficence principle of doing no harm to the patient regardless of their national identity.

The ethical decisions I could make under these circumstances are normative ethics and deontological ethics theories. Normative ethics theory figures out what people should do when faced with a moral dilemma. Like in the situation above, normative ethics theory can be used by the doctor to treat the immigrant patient since it is the right thing to do. On the other hand, deontological ethics theory places value on ones' intentions ² rather than the outcome of an action

(Lazar & Graham, 2019). In the situation above, the doctor's intentions are questioned rather than focusing on the fact that they treated an immigrant, and it might be against the law.

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