

# All About Hospital Ethics Services

**Session 2**

**May 13, 2021**

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# Outline

- Withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment
- Family requests
- Clinical futility
- Advance directives
- AD consult issues

# Withdrawal of Treatment

- The right to refuse medical treatment
- Requests vs. refusals
- Withdrawal and conflict with the “culture of medicine”
- Withholding/withdrawing “distinction”
- Withdrawal of nutrition/hydration

# Patient/Family Requests for Non-beneficial Treatment

- Why does this happen?
- Why do physicians agree to it?
- The complexity of determining what medical “futility” means, and its scope
- Legal complexities

# “Futility”

Relativized to goals of treatment:

- Physiological
- Return to baseline
- Lengthen life
- Etc.

# Advance Directives

- Why is it so hard to talk to patients about ADs?
- Naming a surrogate
- Living wills
- The problem of defining the conditions for implementing a Living Will
- “Two physician” issues and myths

# Common AD Ethics Consult Situations

- Family disagreement with patient AD
- Ambiguous AD
- Physician not using legal definitions of conditions for implementation of an AD
- Oral AD, often poorly documented

# Florida Statute 765

- Pain management
- Definition of “terminal”
- Definition of “end-stage”
- Diagnostic/prognostic tests vs. right to refuse treatment via a surrogate or proxy
- Efforts to update