All About Hospital Ethics Services

Session 2
May 13, 2021

Ray Moseley
Ken Goodman

FBN Florida Bioethics Network
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