



# Ethical Dimensions in the Health Professions, 5e

By Ruth B. Purtilo PhD FAPTA, Regina F. Doherty OTD OTR/L FAOTA

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Ideal for all health care professionals, **Ethical Dimensions in the Health Professions, 5th Edition** provides a solid foundation in basic ethical theory, the terms and concepts of ethics, and current ethical issues. Expert authors Ruth Purtilo and Regina Doherty outline a unique 6-step decision-making process as a guide to making effective choices that lead to a professional and caring response to patients. They also suggest practical approaches to commonly encountered clinical issues such as confidentiality, informed consent, information sharing, and end-of-life care. With this book, you will develop the skills you need to recognize, understand, and resolve ethical problems.

- **Unique! 6-step process of ethical decision-making** provides an organizing framework for the steps to take in arriving at an ethical decision.
  - Step 1: Gather relevant information
  - Step 2: Identify the type of ethical problem
  - Step 3: Analyze the problem using ethics theories or approaches
  - Step 4: Explore the practical alternatives
  - Step 5: Act
  - Step 6: Evaluate the process and outcome
- **Patient stories** begin each chapter with an ethical dilemma and frame the rest of the chapter, tying abstract principles to real-life situations and demonstrating the ethical decision-making process for each story.
- **Content on end-of-life care** shows how to develop a caring response toward dying patients and identifies basic ethical concepts applying to patients with life-threatening conditions.
- **Unique! More than 100 Reflection boxes** indicate important concepts and include space to jot down thoughts.
- **HIPAA and patient confidentiality information** covers current laws and addresses what types of information are appropriate and inappropriate to include in the patient's medical record.
- **Questions for thought and discussion** help you apply the ethical decision-making process to different situations.
- **Unique! Over 80 summary boxes** offer a quick review of the important information in each section.

- **Unique! New coverage of biotechnology** addresses the professional's role relating to environmental responsibility and the ecological costs of various health care interventions.
- **Unique! New content on the intersection of technology and ethics** describes the impact of advances in medical technology in rehabilitative care, and helps you face difficult conversations where you must offer hope while presenting realistic outcomes.
- **Unique! New content on terrorism and disaster planning** describes the ethical dilemmas professionals face in preventing terrorism and planning for disasters.
- **New topics on the ethical decision-making process** include the concepts of care, distinguishing ethical reasoning as a distinct part of your clinical reasoning and professional judgment, and attention to caregivers.
- **New coauthor Regina Doherty**, an occupational therapist, adds expertise and an OT perspective.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

Reviews of last edition: "Gives the impression that ethical decision-making is a real-life activity in which the average person is expected to participate...The book makes a significant contribution to the literature." - JAMA

### **About the Author**

Ruth B Purtilo, PhD, FAPTA, Director, Center for Health Policy and Ethics, Dr.C.C and Mabel L. Criss Professor of Physical Therapy, School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, Omaha, NE

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