



## Practical Ethics for Physical Therapists Moral Courage in Healthcare

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Note to Participants: There are interactive pop-up questions throughout this lecture. If you choose to pause the lecture and return at a later time, a natural break time would be after answering the interactive questions. (You are able to pause at any time and the presentation will "remember" where you were. It's just a more natural time to pause after the interactive questions.) For your convenience, this outline reflects where/when within the lecture the interactive questions occur.

This lecture has 61 slides and is 99 minutes in duration.

### I. Objectives

- A. Define moral sensitivity.
- B. List ways to improve moral sensitivity.
- C. Define moral judgment.
- D. List ways to develop moral judgment.
- E. Define and describe the elements of moral courage.
- F. Describe how moral courage can be developed.
- G. List risks of demonstrating moral courage.
- H. Develop strategies to anticipate and manage risks of moral courage.

### II. Moral sensitivity

- A. Goal: The ability to identify ethical issues.
  - 1. Sensitivity to the needs and well-being of other individuals.
  - 2. Empathy and perspective: Understanding and valuing how others may feel and react.
- B. Need all available facts of the situation

### III. Promotion of moral sensitivity

- A. Analyze the patient-therapist relationship.
- B. Clarify personal beliefs and values.
- C. Internalize professional values.
  - 1. Code of Ethics/Ethical Conduct
  - 2. Core Values of Professionalism
- D. Expand cultural competence.
- E. Facilitate awareness of ethical issues in physical therapy profession.

### IV. Moral judgment/reasoning: Identifying a good decision in a specific situation.

### V. Promotion of moral judgment

- A. Understand legal, regulatory and ethical standards.
- B. Understand different ethical theories and perspectives.

Notes

- C. Practice applying ethical theories in case studies.
- D. Apply critical thinking, problem solving and reflection to ethical questions.
- E. Share ethical stories and struggles with peers.
- F. Make sure decisions aren't being made out of greed or self-interest.
- G. Stay close to those who tell you the truth and hold you accountable
- H. Put future benefits before immediate needs.

Interactive Questions — slide 14 @ 19 minutes

VI. Moral courage

- A. The implementation of a moral decision.
  - 1. Having the strength of your convictions.
  - 2. Overcoming obstacles to persevere against adversity.
  - 3. Courage manifested in the service of one's values.
  - 4. The quality of mind and spirit that enables one to face up to ethical dilemmas and moral wrongdoings
  - 5. An act whose goal is to protect a threatened moral value.
  - 6. A readiness for voluntary, purposive action in situations that engender realistic fear and anxiety in order to uphold something of great moral value.
- A. Moral courage is at the intersection between moral principles, risk and endurance (perseverance).
- B. Moral courage lies on a continuum between inaction and foolish behavior.

Interactive Questions — slide 31 @ 40 minutes

VII. Development of moral courage

- A. Study the moral foundations of health professions.
  - 1. Ethical theories and principles
  - 2. Code of ethics
  - 3. Standards of practice
  - 4. Compare personal core values with professional core values for consistency and relevance.
  - 5. Understand the process of addressing ethical dilemmas.
- B. Examine the risks and consequences to understand the dangers of action.
  - 1. Ambiguous situations
  - 2. Many types of losses
  - 3. Humiliation
- C. Draw on strengths that allow you to endure hardships.
  - 1. Experience
  - 2. Character
  - 3. Faith
  - 4. Intuition
- D. Manage the risks.
  - 1. Use skills related to negotiation and conflict resolution.
  - 2. Form alliances.

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3. Work toward sustained change.
  4. Plan for the worst-case scenario.

Notes

Interactive Questions — slide 40 @ 60 minutes

- E. Develop a support network.
  1. Have ethical discussions.
  2. Be part of an ethical environment.
  3. Study moral role models.
- F. Find, affirm and celebrate examples of moral courage.

Interactive Questions — slide 50 @ 73 minutes

VIII. Moral courage in everyday life

- A. Case study: clinical education
- B. Examples from experience

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