

The 5 C Principles
On the Way towards a Global Common
Morality in Health Care Ethics

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10th WORLD CONGRESS OF BIOETHICS: BIOETHICS IN A GLOBALISED WORLD
Global and Regional Perspectives on Bioethics. - Singapore, July 28 – 31, 2010

The 5 C Principles

On the Way towards a Global Common Morality in Health Care Ethics

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Competence, Compassion, Communication, Cooperation, Cultivation
are the five elements
of harmonious personal, professional and communal interactions,
also in successfully caring for health and health care.

Health is not just a status, rather it is a balanced result of health-competent care of one's own physical, emotional, and social wellbeing and wellfeeling, achieved in competent understanding, modification and enhancement of individual genetic, social and environmental properties, with the support of health care professionals and through equal access to health care services, including information, prediction and prevention.

Cultures of Interactivity

MENCIUS:

'Between father and son, there should be affection, between ruler and minister, there should be righteousness, between husband and wife there should be attention to their separate functions, between young and old, there should be proper order, and between friends, there should be faithfulness'

HEALTH CARE:

'Between experts, lay people, and corporate persons, there should be competence and compassion, communication and cooperation, never ending ways and visions of cultivation'

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Global Issues and Deficiencies in Health Care

as empirically documented and proven in Clinical Ethics Review Committees in many cultures

1. Professional error, malpractice, negligence, carelessness.
2. Financial constraints, wrong incentives, institutional survival.
3. Inequalities: rural and urban, rich and poor, education levels.
4. Conflicts between personal, professional and institutional goals.
5. Communication and cooperation issues on many levels.
6. Low levels of lay health education, competence, and responsibility.
7. Emotional detachments, trust issues on many levels.
8. Personal, professional, institutional, cultural, political challenges.

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Deficiencies of the ,autonomy, no harm, do good, justice' model

The so-called Georgetown Mantra model
Cf for best presentation: Beauchamp TL, J Childress, Principles of Biomedical Ethics, Oxford U Press, 2009, 6th edition:

1. *Health care and health care ethics is ,Partnership Ethics' among corporate and individual providers and between providers and recipients, not just a domain of doctors and physician's ethics.*
2. *Classical principles of ,Competence' and ,Compassion' are missing, together they will provide for the good of the patient and avoid harm.*
3. *,Communication' and ,Cooperation' as principles and virtues are missing.*
4. *We need communication and cooperation, compassion and competence on all levels and by all stakeholders in order to provide patient-oriented care and to define potential harm, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice and respect for autonomy for each and every person.*

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Competence

Health care experts: competence indispensable for good professional and patient-oriented service; malpractice and carelessness are unethical.

Lay person: health care competence is a human and civil duty and indispensable in caring for one's own health in partnership and compliance with experts.

Corporate person: competence in corporate profile and competent leadership are indispensable for good services and public recognition.

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Compassion

Health care experts: expertise without ethics is blind, ethics without expertise is helpless.

Lay persons: compassion is a golden rule for everyone in reciprocity., not just in the care for health and in caring for the weak and sick.

Corporate persons: Compassion is essential for the corporate profile, it is an overreaching principle over organizational and financial goals and principles.

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Communication

Health care experts: communication is essential to diagnose and review the patient's medical and wish-and-value status and to cooperate closely with the patient and among experts.

Lay persons: communication is essential to provide experts with necessary information for individualized treatment, for reviewing procedures and cooperation and compliance in treatment.

Corporate persons: communication is an essential leadership tool promote corporate goals and means internally within the institution and externally as a good neighbor in the community.

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Cooperation

Health care expert: cooperation-in-trust within the team and with patients and families is essential in successful health care.

Lay person: cooperation-in-trust is essential for successful health care in any setting; in developing health care competence, in cooperating in preventive and family medicine, in clinics and in nursing homes.

Corporate person: leadership in teaching, in providing and supporting cooperation is essential for corporate success and recognition internally and externally.

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Cultivation

Individuals, families, communities, teams and institutions need to internalize the elements of communication and cooperation, of compassion and competence as attitudes, virtues, visions and rules for the benefit of healthy and happy people and communities.

For experts and lay persons in primary and secondary health care and for care facilities themselves, cultivation as self-cultivation and partnership-cultivation is an overarching goal.

Cultivation in private practice and in clinical care is a never-ending goal, rarely a final stage in pursuing and implementing competence with compassion, communication and cooperation.

The pursuit and success of cultivation is a powerful internal instrument within a team and an institution and an effective external element in the recognition of great health care institutions as corporate neighbors.

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Eight Interactive Health Care Rules I

LAY PERSON

1. *Find truly educated and trustworthy health experts and take good care of your health.*
2. *Develop competence and responsibility in health risk management.*
3. *Make extended use of predictive and preventive medicine.*
4. *Expect healing or relief from acute medicine, but be aware of the limits and risks of any medical intervention.*

EXPERT

1. *Treat your patient as a person, not just her or his symptoms.*
2. *Assist your patient in developing health risk competence.*
3. *Integrate the 'clinical status' and the 'value status' of your patient into differential ethics, diagnosis and prognosis.*
4. *Be aware of benefits, limits, and risks of acute intervention and discuss those with your patient.*

CORPORATION

1. *Provide and improve efficient health care settings for providers and customers*
2. *Protect and support competent and compassionate professional health care.*
3. *Set institutional frameworks for the whole range of health care services.*
4. *Support providers and customers of health care service.*

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Eight Interactive Health Care Rules II

LAY PERSON

5. *Expect information and advice from medical experts and be a fair partner with them.*
6. *Define and implement your sense of qualities of life, from childhood to old age, in sickness and in health.*
7. *Prepare and implement your health care plan, your advance directives and name proxy decision makers for circumstances of incompetence.*
8. *Cultivate and care responsibly for your health and health care partners.*

EXPERT

5. *Be an expert partner to your patient and respect her or his wishes and values.*
6. *Continuously educate yourself and provide the best possible clinical and personal service.*
7. *Assist your patient in preparing and implementing health care strategies, advance directives, and work with proxies for the benefit of your patient.*
8. *Cultivate and care responsibly for your health and health care partners.*

CORPORATION

5. *Establish yourself as a health care center for prevention, education and treatment.*
6. *Provide continuing professional education for health care experts.*
7. *Offer outreach programs and be a good corporate neighbor.*
8. *Cultivate and care responsibly for your health and health care partners.*

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Healthy Health Care Culture

Lao Zi

- 'Cultivate the self and virtue will be true;*
- Cultivate the family and virtue will be complete;*
- Cultivate the village and virtue will grow;*
- Cultivate the country and virtue will be rich;*
- Cultivate the world and virtue will be wide'.*

Health Care Ethics

- 'Cultivate communication and cooperation and health will be strong;*
- Cultivate compassion and competence and health care will be good;*
- Cultivate health care and health and virtue will be healthy'.*

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