Advocating For Palliative Care



"...I will take care that they suffer no hurt or damage."

Hippocratic Oath, 410 BC

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"Why Palliative Care?"



There are ethical imperatives to reduce unnecessary suffering

Ethical Imperatives



Justice

Autonomy

Beneficence

Malfeasance

"First, do no harm"



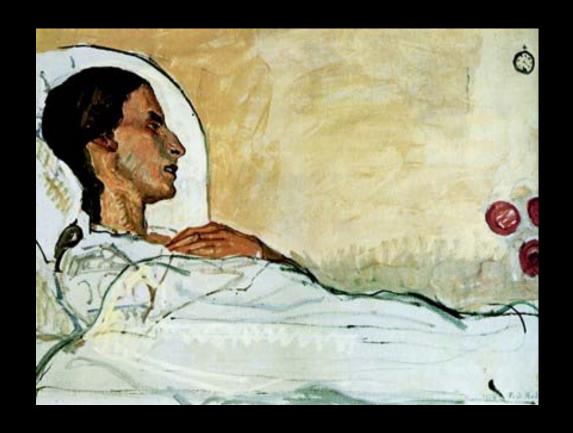
Care that has no possibility of achieving a good is harm

Goals Of Care



Relieve suffering and restore a patient's life

Limits Of Care



Treating is not the same as relieving Being alive is not the same as having a life

Competence vs Care



There is an ethical limit to competence

Limits of Competence



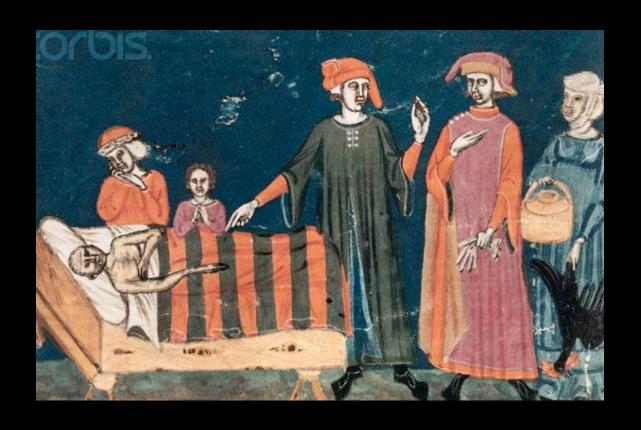
- Futile Care
- Hospital-Dependent
- Chronic Critical Illness

Futile Care



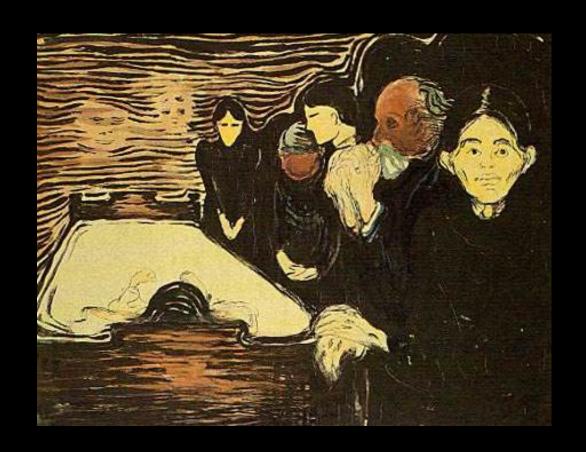
Overtreatment is as unethical as under treatment

Hospital-Dependent Patient



How do we care for patients who cannot live outside of the hospital?

Chronic Critical Illness



How to treat a problem caused by medical treatment?

The Unspoken Reason



Poor Communication

Summing Up



- 1. Palliative Care has ethical imperatives
- 2. Clinical Competence has an ethical limit
- 3. Palliative Care prevents needless suffering
- 4. Palliative Care gets doctors and patients talking

Thank You



"Avoid all treatments that only pamper disease."