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# Responsibility and conflict: introduction to Ethical Deliberation

*Lazare Benaroyo*

# 1. Defining ethics

- Ethics has to be conceived as a critical reflection about the values and moral norms which govern action
- It must be distinguished from moral and legal norms which relates to specific value systems (within a given religion or cultural context)
- It goes beyond deontology which is a code for good practices linked to a given profession

# VIDEO

# Prerequisites for the resolution of ethical conflict

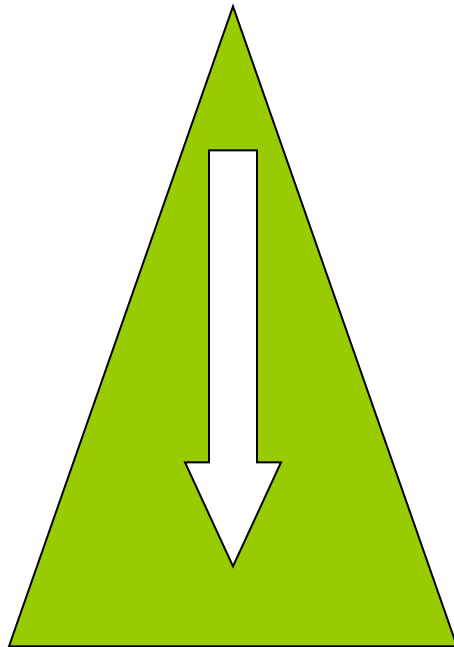
- **The answer cannot be only technical or scientific**
- **There is not one good decision, but a greater relevance of one solution over the other**
- **The most relevant solution comes from a deliberation between the various actors involved in the situation**

# Reflexive & délibérative approach

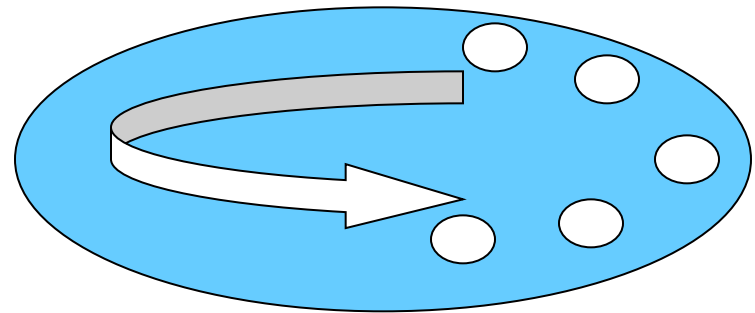
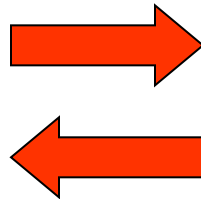
- **Specify Ethical questions at stake**
- **Identify the responsibilities of the various actors in the situation**
- **Identify the values involved in the actual situation :**
  - Identify the individual's personal values**
  - Identify professional standards**
  - Identify institutional values**
  - Identify social and cultural values**
- **Identify conflicts between these various values**
- **Identify alternative approaches to resolving ethical conflicts highlighted**
- **Choose the option that preserves consensual values**
- **Give a rational justification for this choice**

# Case Study

# Moment Time ? of ethical debate



Institutionnal Fonctionning



Moment of ethical debate

# Conditions for a good deliberation

- **Detachment**
- **Objectification**
- **Deliberate**



# Detachment

- **Need to stand back**
- **Detachment of pressures of all kinds**
- **Avoids the ready-made solution**

# Objectification

- Be able to identify all the elements of a problem situation
- Switch from simple to complex
- Explore all the values in play ...

The student and close relation

Professional ethics

The psychosocial context

Legal and economic issues

The organization of work

# Dialogue - Deliberation

## **2 « Rules »:**

- **Each participant in the discussion has the same right to speak**
- **To deliberate in order to reach a dialogue in action that allows the best commitment to the care of the student**

# Deliberation : Components

Deliberation contributes to:

- Dispelling the narrow entanglement of values
- Adopt a vigilant attitude to identify the relevance of judgments
- To reveal the emotional component of a decision
- and to evaluate the extent to which it can claim the status of basic argument or not of an ethical decision.

# Deliberative Approach

Deliberation is a structured approach to reasoning in order to balance a complex set of elements:

- Risks
- Values
- Standards or Norms
- individual Interests
- Collective interests

# Relevance of the deliberative approach

- Allows to clarify the stakes in a conflict situation (importance of the beneficial solicitude)
- Allows careful attention to the different point of views
- Allows to pay attention to the possible difficulties of all stakeholders
- Improve the conditions of communication between the various actors (and units) engaged in a situation
- Creates conditions for restoring trust
- Improve quality of support
- Sheds light on management issues

# Reflexive & délibérative approach

- **Specify relevant information**
- **Specify Ethical issues**
- **Identify the responsibilities of the various actors in the situation**
- **Identify the values involved in the actual situation :**
  - Identify the patient's personal values**
  - Identify professional standards**
  - Identify institutional values**
  - Identify social and cultural values**
- **Identify conflicts between these various values**
- **Identify alternative approaches to resolving ethical conflicts highlighted**
- **Choose the option that preserves consensual values**
- **Give a rational justification for this choice**

# Ethics Case work up

- **What are the relevant facts?**  
Different « events »  
Institutional context
- Etc....
- **What are the ethical issues?**  
What ethical values are in conflict  
How to address ethical conflicts (ethical options)  
The respective implications of each ethical option
- **What is the appropriate decision?**  
Arguments in Favor  
Arguments against  
Result of ethical deliberation



# Required « Ethic Skills »

- **Communication skills**
- **« Turn taking »**
- **« Restating »**
- **Active Listening**
- **Attention to the other**
- **Humility**
- **...**