

For the teacher
-example of possible arguments
Ethical Problem: Feil! Bokmerke er ikke
definert. Confidentiality

a.	Description of problem	<p>What information can a health care professionals share with others and in what circumstances can information be shared?</p> <p>There are laws relating to confidentiality in the health care professions. In practice, however, “confidentiality” is understood in a variety of different ways. Should health care professionals strive for the highest level of confidentiality regarding patient information, i.e. that all information passed on to others must be approved by the patient, or should “confidentiality” be practised in a more flexible manner, allowing for a “need- to-know” principle?</p>
b.	Facts concerning the problem	<p>Confidentiality is vital for the public’s trust in the healthcare services. People will not share information about themselves unless they feel secure that sensitive issues will not be carelessly shared.</p> <p>In many cases, it is important for the patient that information is shared with other health care professionals. Working together they can provide the patient with better care than if only one health care professional has information about the patient, regardless of diagnosis.</p>
c.	Alternatives for sharing of information	<p>Alternative 1 ⇒ The patient is in total control. Without exception, permission to share personal and medical information can only be given from the patient.</p> <p>Alternative 2 ⇒ Sharing of information depends on the facts in each individual case. Exceptions are made if health care professionals find it in the interest of the patient or the general public.</p> <p>Alternative 3 ⇒ Personal and medical information can be shared according to a “need-to-know” principle. Information about some illnesses and conditions can be of importance to, or can affect, other people and they should be informed whether the primary patient approves or not. This also applies to members of the team that takes care of the patient.</p>
d.	Norms	<p>Everyone has the right to decide what happens to information concerning them: personal choice, ownership of personal information</p> <p>The “greater good” and “public interest” is more important than the interests of the individual.</p>

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Ethical Approaches

<u>Rule ethics:</u>	
<p>Pros (for keeping strict confidentiality):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients should have absolute ownership of information regarding themselves 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidential information should be shared without consent in the public interest. The “greater good” and “public interest” is more important than the interests of the individual.
<u>Act ethics:</u>	
<p>Pros:.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important for the public’s trust in health care professionals. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better health care if more health care professionals are involved in a case. • Contagious illnesses may spread if health care workers are prohibited from sharing information about patients with a behaviour that can put themselves or others at risk. • Ignorance may lead to behaviour that puts others at risk.
<u>Purpose / End / Objective:</u>	
<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose behind absolute confidentiality is to ensure personal dignity, and security in the knowledge that no one will experience information about themselves being spread without his or her consent. 	<p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose behind a rejection of total confidentiality is to achieve the best possible treatment of a patient balanced with public interest. • Many patients would benefit from their health issues being discussed by knowledgeable health care workers and that personal and medical information is available for researchers, resulting in improved health care and treatment.

Conclusion
After a discussion of pros and cons you will, as a basis for your opinion, make up your mind

as to what is (are) the most weighty argument(s). Look at the sources below, and find others, for more information and input to form your own opinion.

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