

Letter from The Editor

Greetings and welcome to the Spring/Summer 2005 issue of the Ethics and Human Rights Update! The newest update focuses on issues of informed consent in people with Alzheimer's disease and on determinations of decision-making capacity. These topics continue to pose situations where health care providers often use a process of ethical decision making to come to decisions and determinations related to health care. The feature article is written by a member of the Ethics and Human Rights Advisory Board, Catherine Cole, RN, DNSc whose expertise is in geriatrics and long term care. The case study was written by Shirley M. Neitch, MD, Chief, Section of Geriatrics at Marshall University School of Medicine, the Director of the Hanshaw Geriatric Center. Dr. Neitch's article was previously published in the West Virginia Network of Ethics Newsletter. Both articles are helpful to understanding the complexity of making determinations about patient decision-making capacity.

I hope after your review of the update you will take a few moments to view the updated website. I would like to acknowledge and thank Patrice Franklin who was the person at ANA largely responsible for the website improvements. If you have comments or suggestions please use the contact the center link located on each of the ethics pages. We are especially interested in case scenarios from practice.

Looking back, it was wonderful to see so many of you at the ANA House of Delegates in June. I was pleased with the interest and enthusiasm around the "Acts of Torture and Abuse" proposal. Looking forward, I hope to see many of you at the fall ASBH meeting on October 20-23 in DC. The nursing preconference being cosponsored by ASBH and ANA is sure to be a success. Details of the conference are located on the ASBH website at www.asbh.org. The Advisory Board to the ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights will be meeting prior to the ASBH meeting and nurses who are interested in attending the meeting should contact the Center. Once again thank you for your interest in the online newsletter publication.

Sincerely,
Laurie Badzek, RN, MS, JD, LLM
Director of the Center for Ethics and Human Rights