MORAL Balance

An Ethical Framework to aid Medical Decision-Making One-page version

**What is the medical decision you are trying to make?**

**Make sure of the Facts**

Outline the facts of the case and decision in question (e.g. diagnosis, prognosis, comorbidities, frailty, all treatment options, verbal or written statements, resources). Include degree of uncertainty if present.

**Outcomes of Relevance to the Agents Involved**

Agents are anyone who has a moral stake in the outcome (e.g. patient, family, other patients both in the hospital and outside the hospital, hospital staff, and society). Try and outline what outcomes matter most to these agents, especially taking account of any conversations you have had.

Patient

Patient’s Family

Other Agents

**Level out the Arguments. Try and achieve a Balanced decision.**

Try and balance the four principles of medical ethics: autonomy (what outcomes matter to the patient), benefits and burdens (and to whom), and justice (fairness in the distribution of benefits and risks).

Identify most important facts or outcomes of relevance; greatest conflict and greatest agreement?

Are there options you had not considered?

**Document Balanced Decision** (use the framework to guide documentation or place this sheet in the notes)