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# Education of caregivers

Vincent de Rooij



# Education of caregivers

What does integrating dignified care with assistive technology mean for healthcare professionals and their training?

In modern society, rapidly-changing technology requires healthcare professionals to stay up to date. How can this best happen?

Is sharing information about health technology necessary?

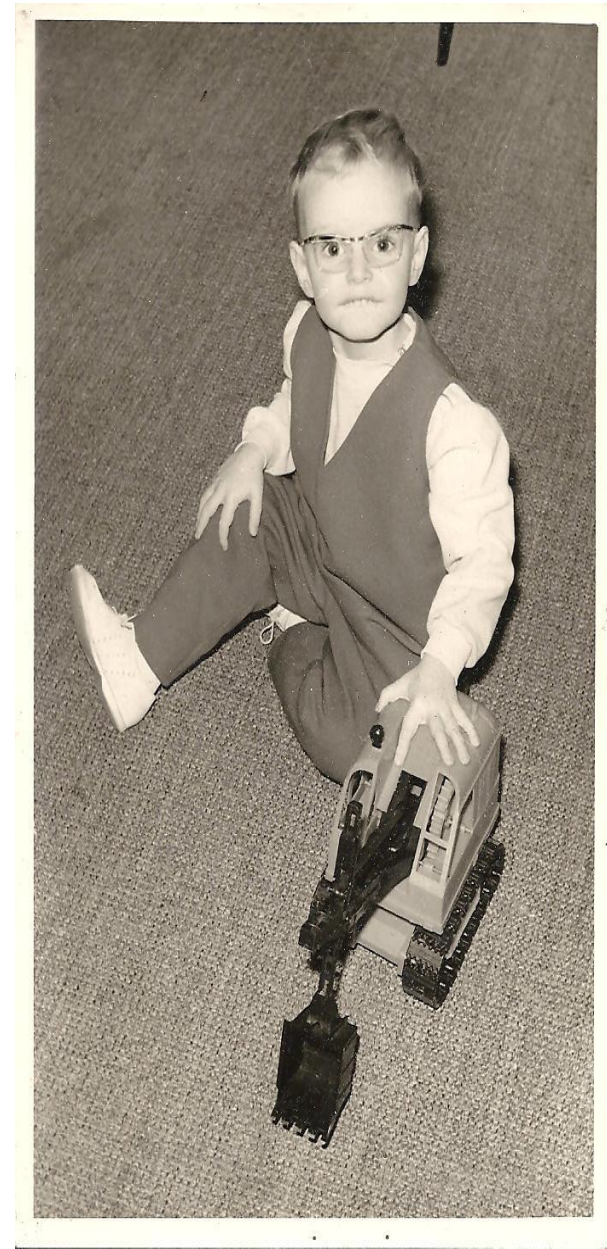
What about dignified care?



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# Philosopher

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- HZ University of Applied Sciences  
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What does integrating dignified care with assistive technology mean for healthcare professionals and their training?





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'Cut off my leg so I can run faster':

Sporty teenager who had one limb amputated for medical reasons now wants the OTHER one removed



# 'Cut off my leg so I can run faster': Sporty teenager who had one limb amputated for medical reasons now wants the OTHER one removed

- The teenager, 15, has the condition developmental dysplasia
- Meant her right leg was effectively useless and she relied on a wheelchair
- Decided in 2010 to have the leg amputated and was given a prosthetic limb
- Enabled her to take up sport and she developed a love of running
- This has caused strain on her 'good' leg, causing pain and slowing her down
- Now wants left foot - which has deformed toes and severe tendon damage - removed so she can run with two prosthetics and compete at Paralympics





# Assistive Technology

- Assistive technology: "any device or system that allows an individual to perform a task that they would otherwise be unable to do, or increases the ease and safety with which the task can be performed"<sup>1</sup>
- Supportive technologies: help the individual to complete tasks
- Responsive technologies: help manage risk and raise alarms
- Preventative technologies: prevent harm and raise alarms<sup>2</sup>

1. Cowan, D. and Turner-Smith, A. (1999) 'The role of assistive technology in alternative models of care for older people' in Tinker, A. and et al (eds) Royal Commission on Long Term Care (Research Volume 2), London , The Stationery Office.

2. Beech, R. and Roberts, D. (2008) 'SCIE Research briefing 28: Assistive technology and older people' Social Care Institute for Excellence, Accessed 11 February 2013, available at <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/briefings/files/briefing28.pdf>



# Assistive technologies in health care practices raise several ethical questions

- What are the morally relevant consequences of the implementation of the technology?
- Does the implementation or use of the technology challenge patient autonomy?
- Does the technology in any way violate or interfere with basic human rights?
- Does the technology challenge human integrity?
- Does the technology challenge human dignity?



# Assistive technologies in health care practices have several benefits

- It may enable individuals to be more independent, productive and participate in society:
  - have greater control over their own lives (independent, autonomous)
  - participate in and contribute to activities in their home, school, work and in their communities.
  - interact to a greater extent with non-disabled individuals
  - benefit from opportunities that are taken for granted by individuals who do not have disabilities
- Improving Quality of Life



# Assistive technologies in health care practices raise several problems

- It may affect the privacy or freedom of a person.
- It may be used to cut back services and reduce human contact.
- Some devices may be used to do things a person is still able to do for themselves which may make their problems worse.
- It may make things more complicated or beyond the abilities of the person.



The ethical issues posed by assistive technology are really not that different from those posed by any new invention or social change.

*Ethics... we all have to practice them every day in everything we do.*

*The only question is whether we recognize ethical problems.*



# Condition for ethical thinking

- Professional reflection
  - increased self-awareness
  - respect for holistic care including cultural and religious sensitivity
- Critical thinking
  - *interpretation, analysis, evaluation, inference, explanation, and self-regulation*
  - *logical reasoning, fallacies*
- Practicing Empathy





# Four basic moral principles

- Non-maleficence: do no harm
- Beneficence: to actively do good
- Autonomy: being self-governing
- Justice: what is right and equal for everyone



# Making Decisions in Ethics: Ethical Decision Model

- Step 1. Recognize an Ethical Issue
- Step 2. Identify the stakeholders and what are their interests?
- Step 3. What is your conclusion?
- Step 4. Evaluate your conclusion - The Ethical Theories



# Step 1. Recognize an Ethical Issue

- Ethical problem
  - Could this decision or situation be damaging to someone or to some group?
  - Does this decision involve a choice between a good and bad alternative, or perhaps between two "goods" or between two "bads"?
  - Is this issue about more than what is legal or what is most efficient? If so, how?
- Get the Facts
  - What are the relevant facts of the case? What facts are not known? Can I learn more about the situation?
  - Organization: mission and vision statements?
  - Professional Code of Ethics?



## Step 2. Identify the stakeholders and what are their interests?

- What individuals and groups have an important stake in the outcome? Are some concerns more important? Why?
- Have all the relevant persons and groups been consulted?
- Have I identified creative options?

## Step 3. What is your conclusion?



# Step 4. Evaluate your conclusion- The Ethical Theories

- Will your conclusion produce the most good and do the least harm? (The Utilitarian Approach)
- “Do not do unto others as you would not have them do unto you.” (The Golden Rule)
- Is it possible to make a universal law? (Kant’s Approach)
- What kind of person do you want to become? (The Aristotelian Approach)



# Ethical theories

	<b>Actor</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Consequences</b>
<b>Theory</b>	Virtue ethics (Aristotle)	Deontology (Kant)	Utilitarianism (Bentham/Mill)
<b>Points of departure</b>	Virtues	Norms	Values





# Utilitarianism

Jeremy Bentham, 1748-1832, John Stuart Mill, 1806-1873.

Actions are right to the degree that they tend to promote the greatest good for the greatest number.

*Will your conclusion produce the most good and do the least harm?*

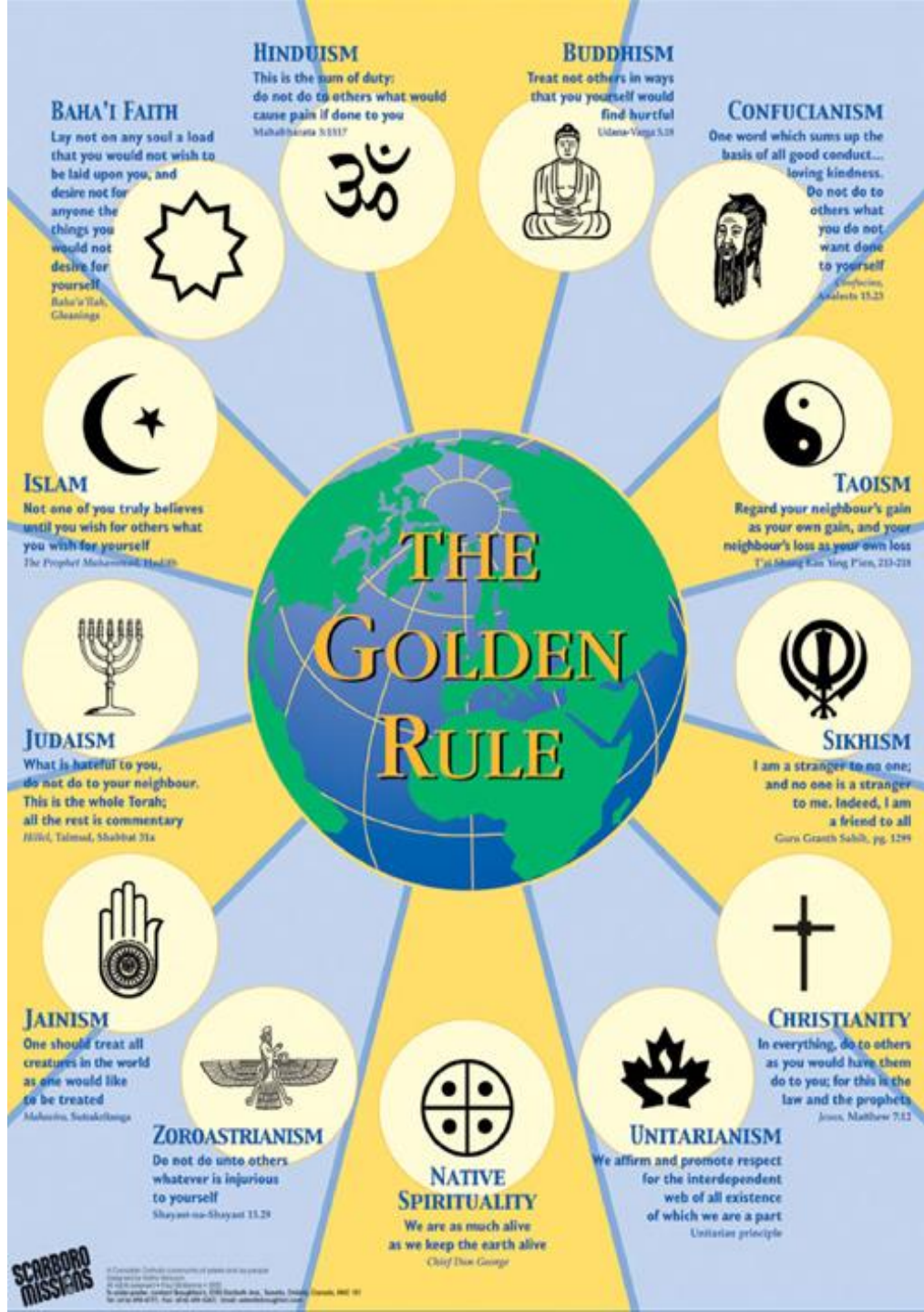
- a quantitative approach (calculated)
- depersonalization



# Golden Rule

“Do not do unto others as you would not have them do unto you.”







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# Kant

(Koningsbergen, 22 april 1724 – ald., 12 februari 1804)

**What is fair for one is fair  
for all**





# Is it possible to make a universal law?

## The Formula of Universal Law

“Act only on that maxim  
whereby you can at the same  
time will that it should become a  
universal law.”

Kant

Golden Rule:

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



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- Does the technology challenge human **integrity**?
- Does the technology challenge human dignity?





## Stephen Hawking

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wk9LC-Cf8g4&list=FLtO\\_wQ23uy7KWTuUwStNjEg&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wk9LC-Cf8g4&list=FLtO_wQ23uy7KWTuUwStNjEg&index=2)

## A Brief History of Mine

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSRyY859VvU&list=FLtO\\_wQ23uy7KWTuUwStNjEg&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSRyY859VvU&list=FLtO_wQ23uy7KWTuUwStNjEg&index=3)



# No two ethical problems are ever the same

- The client will be different from the last because of their culture, their health beliefs and their values and beliefs may also be different.
- The health care team will be different.
- The condition or illness of the client may be different, with different health outcomes.
- The settings or environment may well be different.



The subject of ethics is dynamic and constantly evolving, and there is a need to commit to lifelong professional learning.

Georgina Hawley “Ethics in Clinical Practise”



# Lifelong professional learning

- Lifelong learning of ethics in health care
- Commitment to quality interprofessional care
- Respect for holistic care including cultural and religious sensitivity
- Professional reflection to increase the therapeutic availability to clients
- Ability to think critically and problem-solve
- Engage in a dialogue with the stakeholders and specially with the client



"I Love Living  
Life,  
I Am Happy"  
NICK VUJICIC

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HS1n-LYdXkc>



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