



Dear Readers,

*We make decisions every day. To do it properly, we analyze situation, estimate pros and cons, ask our conscience. We also have to anticipate the consequences of our decisions and take measures if something may go wrong. To be a healthcare professional dealing with end-of-life issues means we need to deal with many ethical or moral questions that may come up during patient's care. The appropriate approach to ethics and decision making is absolutely essential. The experience from USA, Canada and Western Europe shows that ethics committees might be a very practical instrument of clinical ethics. Unfortunately in Poland we have almost exclusively commissions which deal with experimental protocols. There are only few hospital bioethics committees which provide advisory consultation and review cases where professionals experience ethical dilemmas. Rev. Muszala challenges us with the question: "Bioethics committees....what to start with?" basing also on his own experience as a previous member of such committee in the UK. Śliwka and Gałęska-Śliwka present the legal dilemma in Poland especially concerning withholding or withdrawing of life support at the end-of-life. In addition to the issue of medical decision making, we present articles on different aspects of end-of-life care.*

*I would like to draw your attention to the pedagogical analyses by Binnebesel which shows the impact of chronic illness not only on children suffering from cancer but also on their teachers. Dzięgielewska et al. present in their original study the nutritional problems of non-cancer elderly patients with pressure sores at the end-of-life. Sierko et al. evaluate the quality of nursing care provided to patients undergoing first line cytotoxic treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer. And last but not least, if you want to confront yourself with the very intriguing problem: "Anatomy of clinical consultation....I can help when you ask me the right questions", please read the article by Zylicz.*

*I really hope you will enjoy reading.*

Małgorzata Krajnik  
Editor-in-chief

