

AN ETHIC FOR CARING FOR THE ELDERLY

The elderly vary in their youthfulness, but there comes a time when being old means being faced with the accumulation of more physical and mental problems than can be overcome. These are the elderly that need care. Caring for the elderly requires a unique kind of ethical attention. CPR used on the elderly may not be physically possible without doing great bodily harm to the patient. Tube Feeding for those who eat less and less as a normal part of later aging may, when caregivers are not aiming at death, be ethically unnecessary. Dental work or surgical procedures that require more strength or endurance than the elderly patient can tolerate emotionally may be ethically inadvisable. As we age we need more for comfort than treatment for cure since the