Ethics in the Epoch of Change
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Agenda

• Ethics in the Now
• Practical Ethics: Four principles, Frankl, and a Model
• Application Exercise and Discussion
• Summary
Thank You
Change and Ethics

• We are bombarded with change, but still need to maintain high standards and ethics.
• Ethics will be an important part of the challenge to be efficient, effective, patient-centered and cost effective healthcare organizations.
Your Profession’s Ethics Challenges

- You are the protector of privacy and security.
- You are the source of information for funding and research.
- You are under AHIMA’s Code of Ethics. It requires you to be safeguards, advocates, and activists for ethics.
- You are also part of health care’s wave of change.
How Can You Be Ethical and Efficient, Effective, and Accurate?
Let’s Get Practical

• We’ll do this with four principles, Frankl, and RADA.
A Word (or Two) on Principles

• Autonomy as self rule. Who’s autonomy?
• It also includes confidentiality and fidelity. These areas are your “ethics bread and butter.”
• Practice beneficence even when it is difficult to do and we are not paid to do it.
• Remember nonmaleficence or do no harm.
• Consider justice: what is fair and for whom is it fair?
Viktor Frankl and Personal Ethics

• He was a Jewish physician and theorist.
• He survived 5 concentration camps by studying what it meant to be human.
• He discovered that the power of choice mattered in our humanity.
• Do you always have a choice?
• However, you own your choices.
• Choice also relates to ethics decisions, especially under your code of ethics.
How do you decide what to do?

• RADA means research-analyze-decide-act.
• Begin with research because your choices count!
• Get the facts.
• Get the numbers.
• Check with your code of ethics.
• Understand the situation.
Analyze Your Research

• Think about choices and consequences.
• Who will be harmed?
• Is this fair for the greatest number of people?
• Who benefits from the choice?
• Can you own this choice?
Decide

- Evaluate all of the areas that you explored.
- Make a decision!
- I will choose to ______.
- Make the best choice given what you know.
Act!

• Last step is to act on your choice.
• People often decide, but lack ethical courage to act.
• Remember not to act is still a choice.
• You are held accountable for what you actually do by your profession and your organization.
Will you be challenged?
Can a Model Assist You?
Application Time

• Use your handout for brainstorming.
• Think about one ethics challenge you face. Record it on your sheet.
• Find a partner and brainstorm how you each can use RADA.
• Debrief: what are some examples of what you learned from this exercise?
Questions and Comments?
You Are the Protectors!