

Exercise 0: Ethical Dilemmas

Instructor: Ziv Yaniv (zivy@gwu.edu)

Due date: Jan. 26 2012

Provide a concise¹ discussion of the ethical dilemmas associated with the following scenarios. If relevant, identify how these issues relate to the three principles of the Belmont report:

1. Your company is developing a novel navigation system that can potentially improve a procedure and wants to advertise this directly to consumers, including inviting them to see the system at shopping malls across the country. Part of the advertisement will encourage the public to request that their physicians' use the system.
2. Your company has developed a novel device and needs to perform a clinical trial. The cost of performing the trial in the USA is prohibitive, but it is cost effective to perform it abroad in a less affluent country. Once the product is approved for marketing its cost will preclude any use in that same country.
3. Your company has developed a novel robotic device. In its current form, the parts that come in contact with the patient can be sterilized without any effect on the system performance. This means that once the system is sold no new revenue will be generated from that installation. It is decided that the company will explore the design of parts so that their structure will degrade after each sterilization, requiring replacement after X number of procedures.

Submission: email a pdf to the instructor. A free pdf writer is available from <http://www.cutepdf.com/>.

¹More than one paragraph and less than one page per scenario.