



Principles of Biomedical Ethics, 5th edition

By Tom L. Beauchamp, James F. Childress

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This edition represents a thorough-going revision of what has become a classic text in biomedical ethics. Major structural changes mark the revision. The authors have added a new concluding chapter on methods that, along with its companion chapter on moral theory, emphasizes convergence across theories, coherence in moral justification, and the common morality. They have simplified the opening chapter on moral norms which introduces the framework of prima facie moral principles and ways to specify and balance them. Together with the shift of advanced material on theory to the back of the book, this heavily revised introductory chapter will make it easier for the wide range of students entering bioethics courses to use this text. Another important change is the increased emphasis on character and moral agency, drawing the distinction between agents and actions. The sections on truth telling, disclosure of bad news, privacy, conflicts of interest, and research on human subjects have also been thoroughly reworked. The four core chapters on principles (respect for autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, and justice) and the chapter on professional-patient relationships retain their familiar structure, but the authors have completely updated their content to reflect developments in philosophical analysis as well as in research, medicine, and health care. Throughout, they have used a number of actual cases to illuminate and to test their theory, method, and framework of principles.

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Principles of Biomedical Ethics, 5th edition By Tom L. Beauchamp, James F. Childress Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1062390 in Books
- Published on: 2001-02-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.80" h x 1.00" w x 8.90" l, 1.44 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 454 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"The authors...have expanded almost every important discussion of theory and principle, and in so doing, have brought much greater clarity and precision to their text. They add new material, reflecting the new problems that medicine and health care face...(AIDS is a prominent example). This third edition is essentially a new book, far better in style and contents than its already satisfactory predecessors." --*Hastings Center Report*

"Authoritative...Well-written and erudite...Those who read the text...will find their time rewarded by an appreciation for two of the finer analytical minds in biomedical ethics and by knowledge of a remarkable amount of literature." --*The Journal of Religion*

About the Author

Tom L. Beauchamp is at Georgetown University. James F. Childress is at University of Virginia.

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