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Technology and Society: future ethics and dilemmas

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We will face new dilemmas

- The patient of the future will be different with different expectations, needs and demands
- The healthcare technology will be different and create new possibilities for ethical debate



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What will lead to these issues?

- value-integration of providers
- emergence of care alliances
- individual preeminence
- the high-tech/high touch dilemma
- socio-political tensions



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In the future...

- there will be greater rational rationing and priority setting in an explicit and public forum



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In the future...

- a greater proportion of health care will take place away from hospitals and in people's own homes, local polyclinics and in numerous and smaller nursing and residential homes



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In the future...

- we will move from **cure** to **fix** and ...
- ... health technologies such as genetic manipulation, molecular engineering/nanotechnology will deal with health problems



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In the future...

- people will take advantage of a wider range of possible types of health services including alternative health care and more psychological than physical care



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In the future...

- there will be a greater diversity and mix of public and private/voluntary health care provision



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Patients will have access to independent information, not controlled by care professionals

- Patients will know more
- Patients will want to know more
- Care brokers will advise patients independently of care providers



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Democracy will prevail

- Decision-making to arrive at difficult decisions will reflect social values and decision processes, not professional decision processes
- “Secret Professions”, and professional cartels will disappear with a shift in power and control of resources
- Healthcare will cease to be managed; it will be brokered in a social context reflecting the collective views of social stakeholders



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The technology will “disappear”

- Clinical and high technology environments will become less so, replaced by “soft” environments
- Location-independent care will prevail with relocatable and portable technology
- The ethical issues will continue to be understanding the care dilemma of THIS person before me versus people



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Information will integrate

- Clinical information and managerial information will integrate in the care value chain
- This information will be publicly available and used in a democratic sense
- Power will shift



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The ultimate debate is really: “prolonging life or delaying death”

- The important questions are not about technology but purpose and outcomes
- The choice is not between life and death but quality of life as lived



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