[Incident 10: To Vaccinate, or Not?](https://media.capella.edu/CourseMedia/nhs4000element18655/wrapper.asp#collapseThree)

A baby being vaccinated by a doctor

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Jenna and Chris Smith are the proud parents of Ana, a 5–day–old baby girl born without complications at Community Hospital. Since delivery, the parents have bonded well with Ana and express their desire to raise her as naturally as possible. For the Smiths, this means breastfeeding exclusively for the first six months, making their own baby food using pureed organic foods, and not allowing Ana to be vaccinated.

The Smiths are college educated and explain they have researched vaccines and decided the potential harms caused by them far outweigh any benefits. They point to the rise in autism rates as proof of the unforeseen risk of vaccines. Their new pediatrician, Dr. Angela Kerr, listens intently to the Smiths' description of their research, including online mommy–blogs that detail how vaccines may have caused autism in many children. The Smiths conclude by resolutely stating they've decided not to vaccinate Ana, despite the recommendations of the medical community.

Dr. Kerr begins by stating that while vaccines have certainly sparked controversy in recent years, she strongly recommends that Ana become fully vaccinated. Dr. Kerr explains that vaccines have saved the lives of millions of children worldwide and have been largely responsible for decreases in child mortality over the past century. For example, the decreased incidence of infection with the potentially fatal Haemophilus influenzae type b, has resulted from routine immunization against that bacterium. Similarly, epidemics such as the recent outbreak of measles are usually associated with individuals who have not been vaccinated against that pathogen.

Dr. Kerr goes on to endorse the general safety of vaccines by informing Ana's parents that safety profiles of vaccines are updated regularly through data sources such as the federal government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). The VAERS, a nationwide vaccine safety surveillance program sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is accessible to the public at [https://vaers.hhs.gov/index](https://vaers.hhs.gov/index" \t "_blank). This system allows transparency for vaccine safety by encouraging the public and healthcare providers to report adverse reactions to vaccines and enables the federal government to monitor their safety. No vaccine has been proven casual for autism spectrum disorder (ASD), or any developmental disorder. On the contrary, many studies have shown that vaccines containing thimerosal, an ingredient once thought to cause autism, do not increase the risk of ASD.

Finally, Dr. Kerr reminds the Smiths that some children in the general population have weakened immune systems because of genetic diseases or cancer treatment, for example. It may not be medically feasible to vaccinate such children. Other children are too young to receive certain immunizations. Instead, these children are protected because almost all other children (and adults) have been vaccinated and this decreases their exposure to vaccine–preventable illnesses (VPIs). This epidemiological concept is known as “herd immunity.” As more parents refuse immunization for their healthy children, however, the rate of VPIs will increase. This puts vulnerable children at significant risk of morbidity and mortality. Routine childhood immunization contributes significantly to the health of the general public, both by providing a direct benefit to those who are vaccinated and by protecting others via herd immunity. Dr. Kerr concludes by stating that after considering the risks versus the benefits of immunization, most states require vaccinations before children can attend school. Parents may decide not to vaccinate under specific circumstances, however, which vary by state.

Jenna and Chris Smith confirm their understanding of what Dr. Kerr has explained, but restate that they do not want Ana vaccinated at this time. Dr. Kerr is perplexed as to what to do.

Develop a solution to a specific ethical dilemma faced by a health care professional by applying ethical principles. Describe the issues and a possible solution in a 3-5 page paper.

#### **Introduction**

Whether you are a nurse, a public health professional, a health care administrator, or in another role in the health care field, you must base your decisions on a set of ethical principles and values. Your decisions must be fair, equitable, and defensible. Each discipline has established a professional code of ethics to guide ethical behavior. In this assessment, you will practice working through an ethical dilemma as described in a case study. Your practice will help you develop a method for formulating ethical decisions.

#### **Instructions**

**Note**: The requirements outlined below correspond to the grading criteria in the scoring guide. At a minimum, be sure to address each point. In addition, you are encouraged to review the performance-level descriptions for each criterion to see how your work will be assessed.

For this assessment, develop a solution to a specific ethical dilemma faced by a health care professional. In your assessment:

1. Access the [Ethical Case Studies](https://media.capella.edu/CourseMedia/nhs4000element18655/wrapper.asp" \t "_blank" \o "Select this link to launch this material in a new window.) <https://media.capella.edu/CourseMedia/nhs4000element18655/wrapper.asp> media piece to review the case studies you will be using for this assessment.
   * Select the case most closely related to your area of interest and use it to complete the assessment.
     + **Note**: The case study may not supply all of the information you need. In such cases, you should consider a variety of possibilities and infer potential conclusions. However, please be sure to identify any assumptions or speculations you make.
   * Include the selected case study in your reference list, using proper APA style and format. Refer to the [Evidence and APA](https://campustools.capella.edu/redirect.aspx?linkid=1540" \t "_blank" \o "Select this link to launch this material in a new window.) section of the Writing Center for guidance.
2. Summarize the facts in a case study and use the three components of an ethical decision-making model to analyze an ethical problem or issue and the factors that contributed to it.
   * Identify which case study you selected and briefly summarize the facts surrounding it. Identify the problem or issue that presents an ethical dilemma or challenge and describe that dilemma or challenge.
   * Identify who is involved or affected by the ethical problem or issue.
   * Access the [Ethical Decision-Making Model](http://media.capella.edu/CourseMedia/nhs4000element18816/wrapper.asp" \t "_blank" \o "Select this link to launch this material in a new window.) <http://media.capella.edu/CourseMedia/nhs4000element18816/wrapper.asp> media piece and use the three components of the ethical decision-making model (moral awareness, moral judgment, and ethical behavior) to analyze the ethical issues.
     + Apply the three components outlined in the Ethical Decision-Making Model media.
   * Analyze the factors that contributed to the ethical problem or issue identified in the case study.
     + Describe the factors that contributed to the problem or issue and explain how they contributed.
3. Apply academic peer-reviewed journal articles relevant to an ethical problem or issue as evidence to support an analysis of the case.
   * In addition to the readings provided, use the Capella library to locate at least one academic peer-reviewed journal article relevant to the problem or issue that you can use to support your analysis of the situation. The [NHS-FPX4000: Developing a Health Care Perspective Library Guide](https://capellauniversity.libguides.com/NHSFPX4000" \t "_blank" \o "Select this link to launch this material in a new window.) <https://capellauniversity.libguides.com/NHSFPX4000> will help you locate appropriate references.
     + Cite and apply key principles from the journal article as evidence to support your critical thinking and analysis of the ethical problem or issue.
     + Review the [Think Critically About Source Quality](https://campustools.capella.edu/redirect.aspx?linkid=2451" \t "_blank" \o "Select this link to launch this material in a new window.) resource.
       - Assess the credibility of the information source.
       - Assess the relevance of the information source.
4. Discuss the effectiveness of the communication approaches present in a case study.
   * Describe how the health care professional in the case study communicated with others.
   * Assess instances where the professional communicated effectively or ineffectively.
   * Explain which communication approaches should be used and which ones should be avoided.
   * Describe the consequences of using effective and non-effective communication approaches.
5. Discuss the effectiveness of the approach used by a professional to deal with problems or issues involving ethical practice in a case study.
   * Describe the actions taken in response to the ethical dilemma or issue presented in the case study.
   * Summarize how well the professional managed professional responsibilities and priorities to resolve the problem or issue in the case.
   * Discuss the key lessons this case provides for health care professionals.
6. Apply ethical principles to a possible solution to an ethical problem or issue described in a case study.
   * Describe the proposed solution.
   * Discuss how the approach makes this professional more effective or less effective in building relationships across disciplines within his or her organization.
   * Discuss how likely it is the proposed solution will foster professional collaboration.
7. Write clearly and logically, with correct use of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics.
   * Apply the principles of effective composition.
   * Determine the proper application of the rules of grammar and mechanics.
8. Write using APA style for in-text citations, quotes, and references.
   * Determine the proper application of APA formatting requirements and scholarly writing standards.
   * Integrate information from outside sources into academic writing by appropriately quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, following APA style.

**Example Assessment**: You may use the following to give you an idea of what a Proficient or higher rating on the scoring guide would look like:

* [Assessment 3 Example [PDF]](https://courserooma.capella.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/NHS-FPX/NHS-FPX4000/220700/Course_Files/cf_Exemplar_NHS-FPX4000_Assessment_3.pdf" \t "_blank" \o "Select this link to launch this material in a new window.).

#### **Additional Requirements**

Your assessment should also meet the following requirements:

* **Length**: 3–5 typed, double-spaced pages, not including the title page and reference page.
* **Font and font size**: Times New Roman, 12 point.
* **APA tutorial**: Use the [APA Style Paper Tutorial [DOCX]](https://campustools.capella.edu/redirect.aspx?linkid=4243" \t "_blank" \o "Select this link to launch this material in a new window.) for guidance.
* **Written communication**: Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
* **References**: Integrate information from outside sources to include at least two references (the case study and an academic peer-reviewed journal article) and three in-text citations within the paper.
* **APA format**: Follow current APA guidelines for in-text citation of outside sources in the body of your paper and also on the reference page.

#### **Competencies Measured**

By successfully completing this assessment, you will demonstrate your proficiency in the following course competencies and scoring guide criteria:

* Competency 1: Apply information literacy and library research skills to obtain scholarly information in the field of health care.
  + Apply academic peer-reviewed journal articles relevant to an ethical problem or issue as evidence to support an analysis of the case.
* Competency 3: Apply ethical principles and academic standards to the study of health care.
  + Summarize the facts in a case study and use the three components of an ethical decision-making model to analyze an ethical problem or issue and the factors that contributed to it.
  + Discuss the effectiveness of the approach used by a professional to deal with problems or issues involving ethical practice in a case study.
  + Apply ethical principles to a possible solution to an ethical problem or issue described in a case study.
* Competency 4: Write for a specific audience, in appropriate tone and style, in accordance with Capella's writing standards.
  + Discuss the effectiveness of the communication approaches present in a case study.
  + Write clearly and logically, with correct use of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics.
  + Write following APA style for in-text citations, quotes, and references.