

BOOK REVIEWS



Jason Weiner, *Jewish Guide to Practical Medical Decision-Making* (New York: Urim Publications, 2017), 368 pp.

A book of this nature masterfully brings two areas together: Jewish Law and practical medical decision-making. Weiner addresses the challenge of Jewish Law known as Halakhah, which guides observant Jews in their medical decisions.

In line with the teachings of current medicine and ethics, the question is, Just because something can be done, should it be done? The contents of *Jewish Guide to Practical Medical Decision-Making* is organized as follows: Facilitating Shared Decision-Making, How Much Treatment, Prayer, At the End of Life, After Death, Reproductive Questions, and an Appendix of Stories from the Front Lines: Confronting Complex Ethical Scenarios and Dilemmas.

The book highlights key concepts to facilitate collaborative decision-making. Understanding the terminology is necessary in the context of a hospital scenario. Weiner provides extensive research, which he documented after each chapter. These chapters include truth telling about revealing medical information, determining capacity and proper treatment in accordance with Jewish Law, risk and self-endangerment, making decisions on behalf of an incapacitated patient, Jewish Law in pediatrics regarding a child's consent and treatment, palliative care and hospice, efficacy of prayer for the terminally ill, confessional prayers prior to death, advance directives, end-of-life decision-making, withholding versus withdrawing of a ventilator, dialysis, cardiac defibrillators, physician-assisted suicide, the

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definition of death in Jewish Law, organ donation, the loss of a baby or fetus, autopsy, cremation, and various reproductive issues.

This book is a must-have in any health care setting. Author Rabbi Jason Weiner brings authority to his work as a board-certified chaplain with a deep understanding of contemporary medical information and careful integration of Jewish Law.

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