



# Medical Ethics and the Faith Factor: A Handbook for Clergy and Health-Care Professionals (Critical Issues in Bioethics)

By Robert D. Orr

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Clinical ethics is a relatively new discipline within medicine, generated not so much by the “Can we . . . ?” questions of fact and prognosis that physicians usually address, but primarily by the more uncomfortable gray areas having to do with “Should we . . . ?” questions:

Should we use a feeding tube for Mom?

How should we deal with our baby about to be born with life-threatening anomalies?

Should our son be taken off dialysis, even though he’ll die without it?

What should we do with our mentally ill sister, who has proven that she is untreatable?

In this book Robert Orr draws on his extensive medical knowledge and experience to offer a wealth of guidance regarding real-life dilemmas in clinical ethics. Replete with instructive case studies, *Medical Ethics and the Faith Factor* is an invaluable resource that reintroduces the human element to a discussion so often detached from the very people it claims to concern.

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**Medical Ethics and the Faith Factor: A Handbook for Clergy and Health-Care Professionals (Critical Issues in Bioethics)** By Robert D. Orr Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #650960 in Books
- Published on: 2009-10-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.07" w x 6.00" l, 1.50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 520 pages

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Review

#### *Journal of the American Medical Association*

"This book is an outstanding resource for teaching medical ethics to students, residents, fellows, nurses, and allied health professionals, because its case studies can encourage much discussion and many questions. It can likewise be an exceedingly helpful resource in the training of clergy, especially in the context of clinical pastoral education. . . The book's content is excellent. . . Orr's approach is always even-handed. . . An exceptionally helpful book."

#### **Stephen E. Lammers**

"—coeditor of *On Moral Medicine: Theological Perspectives in Medical Ethics*

"This is a splendid book. Orr not only gives us a sophisticated account of clinical ethics but also shows us how his account functions in many different types of real-life cases. A book to be consulted often by clergy, pastoral care departments, ethics committee members and, indeed, anyone involved in caring for the sick and their families."

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"How do we make ethical decisions within a health-care context which are both faithful and compassionate? Robert Orr provides us with a vital map of the ethical terrain and guides us carefully and sensitively into the complex area of theology and health-care ethics. Deep, practical, and theologically informed, this book will be a blessing for clergy, health-care professionals, and all who have a genuine interest in exploring how and why we might consider including theology as a central aspect of our ethical decisions in the strange world that is medicine."

About the Author

Robert D. Orr, M.D., C.M., has been a medical professional for forty years. Named Vermont Family Doctor of the Year in 1989, he has served as Director of Clinical Ethics and professor of family medicine at Loma Linda University and as Director of Ethics a

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