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IN THE LITERATURE

Managed Care and End-of-Life Decisions

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Kuczewski MG, DeVita M. Managed care and end-of-life decisions. *Arch Intern Med.* 1998;158(22):2424-2428.

Questions for Discussion

The financial issues of billing and reimbursement are an unavoidable fact of present healthcare decision making in end-of-life treatment.

1. Is it possible to provide appropriate care to patients while working within these financial constraints? Explain.
2. Is the influence of these constraints on decision making necessarily hard-hearted?
3. How can a healthcare system operate within such a framework and still preserve such virtues as compassion and empathy?

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