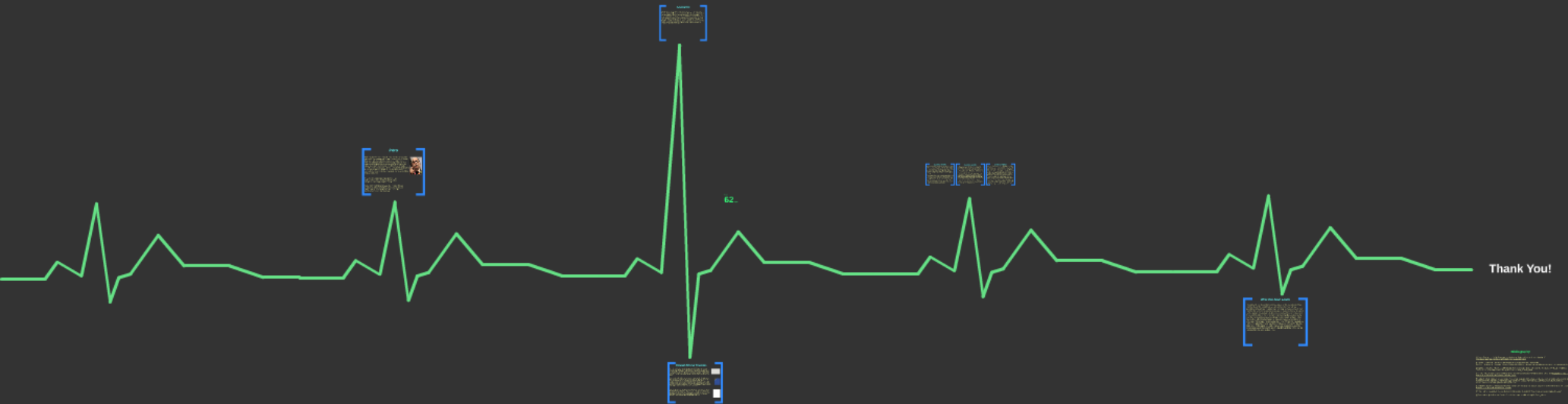




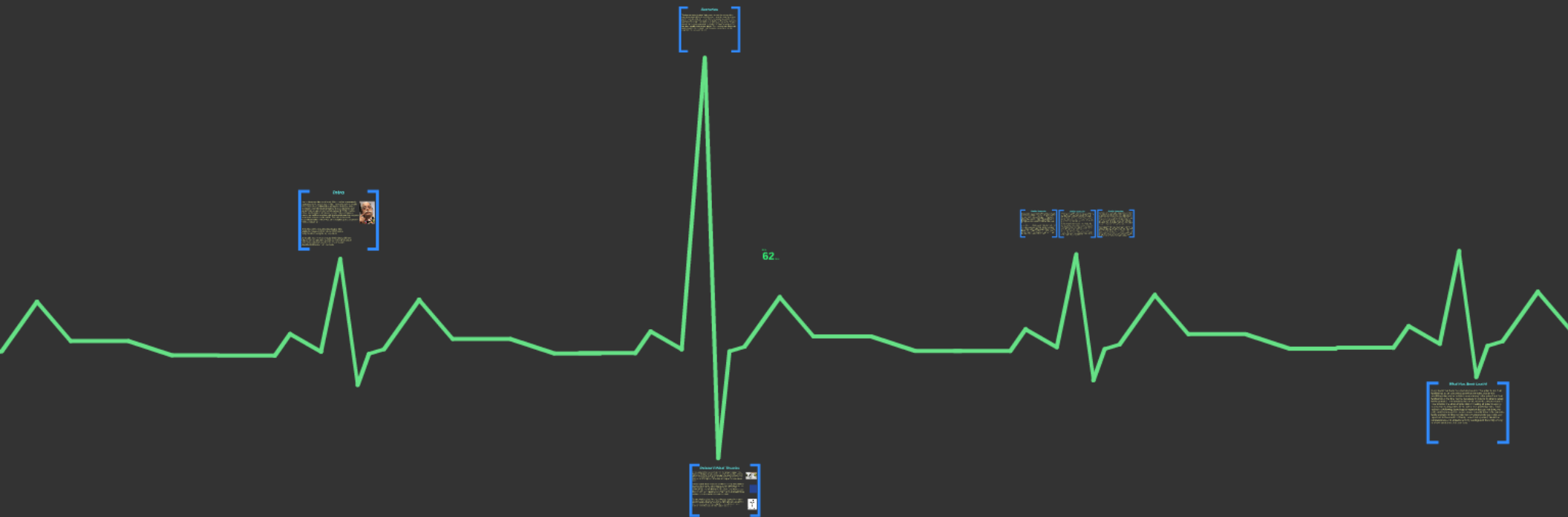
By Brandon
& Kriyasha



Thecasesolution.com



By Brandon
& Kriyasha



Thecasesolution.com

Intro

Patch Adams was born on May 28, 1945. After being repeatedly segregated by his classmates in 1961, he tried to commit suicide three times. After his third failed attempt, he decided to make a revolution where he creates greatness through medicine, and started towards obtaining a medical degree [8]. During medical school, he thought of a traditional hospital that would provide alternative medicine practices, with the hospital providing programs to medical students and the public. This idea became the Gesundheit Institute, which was a free hospital open to any kind of medical problem [7].



The ethical scenario is about how hospital rules relating to the patient unfairly take priority over a family member seeing the injured patient.

Some additional information researched includes different articles from various news sources, as well as the types of ethic theories that are a part of the ethical scenario described in this prezi from the movie.

Scenarios

The chosen scenario is when Patch Adams has just left the room of the recently deceased Bill Davis. As Patch enters the waiting room, he hears a woman shouting in Spanish, demanding that she sees her daughter. The nurses around her are trying to get her to sign forms. When Patch asks one of the nurses what the commotion is about, the nurse says that the mother was drunk driving and killed her husband and son, while her daughter is in intensive care with life threatening injuries. Then the nurse turns back to the mother to get the forms signed, while the mother is pleading to see her daughter in the intensive care unit.

Related Ethical Theories

One related ethical theory is deontology because this theory "focuses on the rightness or wrongness of actions themselves; what makes a choice 'right' is its conformity with a moral norm" [3]. In this scenario, the action is the fact that the nurses at the hospital aren't letting the mother see her daughter in the intensive care unit. The theory applies because seeing her daughter is a priority over the forms.



Another related ethical theory is consequentialism because this theory focuses on the fact that "a morally right action is one that produces a good outcome or result, and the consequences of an action or rule generally outweigh all other considerations (i.e. the ends justify the means)" [2]. In this scenario, the morally right action would be to allow the mother to see her daughter before filling out the forms, as her daughter could die at any time. The good outcome is that the mother and daughter could be together in the event of her death.



The final ethical theory I identified, is principlism because one of the key points in this theory is "no maleficence, or do no harm, which is tied to the nurse's duty to protect the patient's safety." [5]. In this scenario, no maleficence is shown through the nurses concern over the forms being filled, as the mother could provide information as to what medications her daughter is allergic to.



Similar Scenarios

One scenario is an article from The Ottawa Citizen, "Ottawa Police Refused to Let Mom See Her Critically Injured Son in Hospital" by Gay Dimmock [6]. This scenario refers to 18 year old Pierce James who accidentally shot himself in the head and underwent brain surgery. His mother, Julie James, was denied seeing her son in intensive-care at Ottawa Hospital Civic by guards outside his hospital room because he committed a crime and will be charged with firearms offences if he regains consciousness. Fortunately, Julie James was able to gain access when a judge allowed her to visit her son after she filed an affidavit.

This relates to my selected scenario as it refers to deontology. Like the mother in 'Patch Adams', Julie James' son could suddenly die from his injuries. Both mothers were desperate to see their children, but because of adherence to rules, they were denied from seeing them. Therefore, both scenarios follow deontology as the nurses and the police were doing their duty and would not allow the mothers to see their children because it was prohibited by their rules at that time, they were not concerned with what would have been "good" for the mothers and their children, only with what was "right". As a result, both mothers felt frustrated and constrained by these rules.

Similar Scenarios

Another scenario is from The Barrie Examiner, "Child's Parents Denied Visitation" by Tom Godfrey [1]. This scenario refers to Jason Wallace and Chrystal Vitelli, parents of daughter Kaylee who were banned from visiting Kaylee without supervision at Hospital for Sick Children. They were picketing at the hospital to get an MRI for Kaylee, wearing signs denouncing the hospital and taped signs to chairs. The family believes the MRI would determine the cause of Kaylee's seizures. The hospital refused to do an MRI, since Kaylee would have to be administered anesthesia and that was too risky. Kaylee suffers from Joubert syndrome which is a brain abnormality that may cause her to stop breathing during sleep.

This relates to my selected scenario as it refers to principlism. Hospital procedure determined that Kaylee could not have an MRI. The hospital were following non-maleficence by focusing on the harm the anesthesia would do. In this case as Kaylee was only 18 months, the medical staff had to also exercise autonomy (make decisions for Kaylee as she was too young to make them for herself). Justice was also demonstrated because doctors ensured that Kaylee was examined as any other patient would be before concluding that MRI was risky.

The nurses in 'Patch Adams' were also exercising principlism by following maleficence in getting information from the forms to provide accurate and appropriate care to the daughter (such as if she were allergic to any medicine). The nurses were concerned with patient care from a safety perspective just as doctors believed they were ensuring Kaylee's safety by not giving her the MRI.

Similar Scenarios

The last scenario is from FOX31 News "Mother of conjoined twins plan to sue Children's Hospital" by David Mitchell and Rob Low [4]. This scenario refers to Amber McCullough, a mother of conjoined twins. Her conjoined daughters had to undergo separation surgery as both were at risk, however, only one could survive the surgery. She claims hospital staff at the Children's Hospital Colorado were allowing her to see her surviving daughter only three hours a day but previously she had unlimited access for the first four months after she was born. She believes this is retaliation by the hospital as their action occurred a day after she filed a complaint with the State Health Department claiming nurses waited too long to call a doctor when her daughter spewed blood from her neck due to a ruptured incision. McCullough also insulted the hospital by claiming that they are using her daughter as their "lab rat". She states that her rights take priority by stating "above all she's my daughter." However, the hospital stated that they limited her access because she "compromised the healthcare team's ability to provide care for the patient."

This relates to my selected scenario as it refers to consequentialism. In both cases, it would be morally right for the mother in Patch Adams and Amber McCullough to see their children. The consequences of not allowing them to do so would mean that if the children deteriorated or died, their parents would never have had the chance to be with them before they died. Also, the children would need the comfort and love of their parents. This is why the mother in Patch Adams states, "It isn't right that a woman has to spend the last moments of her dying child...filling out forms." She is focusing on the morally right action, not the rules and the good consequences of seeing her daughter immediately. In Amber McCullough's case, the more time she is allowed with her daughter, the more good consequences as her loving presence could help her daughter's recovery.