

# SHARED DECISION MAKING AND FAMILY DYNAMICS

## CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

1. Describe how you can facilitate shared decision making among the patients and families you serve.
2. Explain the ethical imperative for shared decision making.
3. Describe the process of coordinating and facilitating a family meeting focused on shared decision making.
4. Explain the role of shared decision making in palliative sedation.
5. Describe how shared decision making may be made more challenging by family dynamics for LGBTQ individuals.

**Key Terms:** autonomy, beneficence, ethical principles, genogram, palliative sedation, self-determination, shared decision making

---

## CHAPTER SUMMARY

Shared decision making is one of the cornerstones of quality palliative and hospice care, and it is anchored in the ethical principles of autonomy and self-determination. At its core, shared decision making is complex, and it may be made more challenging by complicated family dynamics and medically and ethically complex clinical situations. This chapter explains how to coordinate and facilitate a family meeting focused on shared decision making, how to use shared decision making for decisions surrounding **palliative sedation**, and how family dynamics may play a role in the shared decision-making process.