Objectives

- Define viability based on known gestational age of fetus
- Describe 2 ethical approaches that may be taken during resuscitation of the extremely premature infant
- Explain the 4 ethical principles that are involved in providing care for this patient population
- Discuss the parent’s role in the resuscitation of an extremely premature infant
- Identify 2 federal acts of specific importance to health care team members working in the perinatal specialty
- Outline palliative care measures that will be appropriate for neonate and family for dying infant

Content Outline

1. Definition of viability
   1.1 Gray zone
   1.2 Outcomes

2. Conflict surrounding resuscitation
   2.1 Two approaches: vitalistic and quality of Life
   2.2 Moral dilemma
   2.3 Futility

3. Ethical Principles
   3.1 Autonomy
   3.2 Justice
   3.3 Beneficence
   3.4 Non-maleficence

4. Parents’ role in resuscitation
   4.1 Delivery site
   4.2 Decision making

5. Ethical/Legal Considerations
   5.1 Baby Doe
   5.2 Born Alive Protection Act
   5.3 Death with dignity

6. Palliative Care in the Perinatal period
   6.1 Prenatal diagnosis of lethal anomaly
   6.2 Birth plan
   6.3 Delivery room care
   6.4 Reorientation of care

7. Care of dying infant after delivery
   7.1 Pain management
   7.2 Supportive care

Reading Material Resources

Module GH2016: Ethical Dilemmas is based on the chapter listed below. A copy is included with the module.

Chapter 20, Ethical Dilemmas, Golden Hours: Care of the Very Low Birth Weight Infant, Bissinger, R.L., and Annibale, D. J., The National Certification Corporation (NCC), Chicago, IL, 2014.