

# Morality and Medicine: Documentary Response Assignment 2

Email answers to [dam228@pitt.edu](mailto:dam228@pitt.edu) before class on Tuesday 11/10/20

The documentaries can be accessed through the link below:

Care: <https://pitt.kanopy.com/video/care>

***Be sure to include your name with your emailed answers!***

- 1) Recall the basic principles guiding moral judgments according to utilitarianism (maximize well-being, reduce net suffering), Kantian ethics (respecting the autonomy and dignity of individuals), and virtue ethics (allowing for human flourishing). In around 300 words, briefly assess the morality of two aspects—one positive and one negative—of the home health aide system from one of these perspectives. You can use a different ethical perspective for each. When possible, use an example from one of the focal relationships to support your analysis. [4 points]
- 2) One of the most influential triage principles is based in maximizing quality adjusted life years. But quality of life is difficult to assess in either subjective terms (“how I think I would respond to being in such and such a condition”) or objective terms (“this impairment necessarily decreases quality of life”). Basing your argument on some aspect of the documentary, make a brief (around 150 words) case for viewing quality life as dependent on purely social or subjective factors, or affected in important ways by intrinsic or objective factors. [2 points]
- 3) Stefansson argues that policy discussions related to Covid suffer from a lack of holistic (or all-things-considered) reasoning. He criticizes the tendency to view health or economic issues in isolation. How might this isolated reasoning be applied to the ethics of home health aid? How could this be corrected by viewing these factors holistically and taking account of their interactions? After adopting this holistic perspective, what is your sense of the best intervention to improve the ethical situation? Explain in 300–400 words. [4 points]