**Make sure you record the information for each of your group members. This will serve as proof of attendance.**

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| **Group Member First & Last Name** | **Profession** | **UBC Alumni Email Address** |
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**CASE DISCUSSION**

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| This case is not about overall care. While your profession may not be directly involved in the care of a patient like Charles, think about the kinds of similar ethical issues around which you might see a more central role for your profession. This case will involve you in a collaborative process that is integral to ethical decision-making. |

Charles J is a 28-year-old-man with chronic renal disease who has been on hemodialysis[[1]](#footnote-1) for several years. Despite scrupulous attention to his medication, diet and dialysis regimen, multiple complications have led to his deteriorating condition. Peritoneal dialysis has been ruled out because prior surgeries have left abdominal adhesions. His interprofessional renal team believe his only chance for improvement or even survival is a kidney transplant.

Charles’ immediate family consists of his wife - Kate, 3-year-old son - Jackson, parents – Martha and Dave, 19-year-old brother - Steve, and 26-year-old sister - Natalie. His parents and Steve have been tissue typed and found to be incompatible as donors. Natalie has said that she cares about Charles but she has just qualified for the National Women’s Basketball Team and is hoping to have a baby after the competition. Natalie has expressed concerns that donating her kidney will impact both of these goals.

At a family meeting, called to discuss options, Kate, Steve and their parents pressure Natalie to be tested. After forty-five minutes of “How can you be so heartless?”, “What is your athletic career compared to your brother’s life?”, “You’re no better than a murderer!”, she agrees to be typed. When she is found to be a suitable donor, she says to the physician, “Now I have no choice, I have to donate or I’ll be killing my brother and my family will hate me.”

(Modified from *Handbook for Health Care Ethics Committees,* Post, Blustein, and Dubler, 2007)

**ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING**

Below is the ethical decision-making framework presented in the online module. In your group, work through this in relation to the case of the J Family and submit by the end of the session.

1. Identify the current issue of concern.
2. Gather the relevant information.
3. Identify relevant principles; describe conflicts among principles.
4. Assess health care professionals’ moral obligations.
5. Identify the values of the different parties.
6. Identify all options.
7. Use your resources to evaluate alternatives.
8. Select the best alternative(s), all things considered.
9. Explain your rationale for recommending this alternative.

1. A process that uses a man-made membrane (dialyzer) to: remove wastes, such as urea, from the blood; restore the proper balance of electrolytes in the blood; eliminate extra fluid from the body. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)