

Appendix II. The frequencies of the ethical issues

Respect for Autonomy	
Frequency	
Respect for older peoples' autonomy (restriction of autonomy, self - determination, and self-esteem)	41
Elderly needs, wishes, values	37
Elderly decision-making	36
Human dignity (respect/lack)	20
Elderly competence in decision-making	20
Information given/received	19
Family member/staff decision making	17
Elderly independence	17
Informed consent (verbal/written communication)	16
Patient difficulties in communication (related to decisions)	8
Family members as advocates	7
Health care practitioners as the patient's advocate	6
Family member wishes	5
Non-maleficence	
Treatment issues (medication, life-prolonging, sustaining, artificial treatment and feeding) /choice of no treatment, refuse treatment/nutrition, force using during treatment	19
Do not harm (while treating/feeding the patients)	10
Advance directive (at the end of life decision-making), living wills, durable power of attorney, advance care planning	10
Withholding/withdrawing treatment/food/hydration	7
Negligence (on caring for long-term care patients)	6
Pain management (use of sedatives, analgesics)	5
Active euthanasia/assisted suicide/passive euthanasia	3
Genetics (technology-genetic testing)	2
Beneficence	
Beneficence, benevolence, well-being, relieve suffering, sanctity of life	18
Benefits, costs (financial costs, risk, burdens, harm at the end of life)	13
Preventing from harm (from falling, starve to death)	12
Patient's best interest	11
Utility (on medication, minimizing pain, benefits over harm)	7
Paternalism on decision-making	5
Justice	
Elderly abuse (physical, psychological, emotional, social integrity)	9
The principle of justice (distributive and social)	7
Staff abuse (aggressive behavior from residents)	6
Equality	2
Fairness	1
Discrimination (age discrimination)	1

Appendix II. The frequencies of the ethical issues (continued)

Other ethical issues	
Frequency	
Patient's rights	17
Fidelity (trusting nurse-patient relationship)	11
Emotional issues (forgetfulness, desire to be noticed, difficulties to express themselves, spiritual needs)	8
Privacy (respect/violation)	7
Veracity (truth-telling from the staff to the patients)	6
Patient-family relationship	5
Confidentiality (related to privacy)	3
Preservation of life	2
Professional issues	
Health care services and systems (shortfall of financial resources, organization)	18
Staff experience/competence/capacity (training, skills, knowledge related to care, treatment and patients' rights)	17
Communication within the team, with patients and family members	14
Duty to provide care (and safety to the patient)	11
Limited staff and time (short on staff and time, to provide qualitative care)	10
Cultural (and emotional) influences (in respecting old people, not letting them die, the trust of the patient, related care, emotions when treating terminal patients)	9
Professional care ethics/ethical standards and codes	6
Professional judgment (force feeding/treating)	4
Staff conflicts over management of patient care/treatment	2
Ethical dilemma	
Benefits versus harm	4
Beneficence versus autonomy	3
Ethical dilemma in different care situations, nutritional support, and treatment	3
Paternalism versus autonomy	2
Autonomy versus self-endangering behavior	1
Futility versus harm	1
Duty to respect the patient's rights versus duty to protect those from harm	1
Values of continued life versus the value of good QoL, versus the value of autonomy	1
Longevity versus QoL (quality of life)	1
Costs of treatment versus benefits	1