

# How to Evaluate Medical Treatment and Procedures

*Catholics are not morally obligated to accept medical treatment, procedures or medications in which the burden on the patient, family or community outweighs the benefit, or any treatment, procedures or medications which prolong life without hope of recovery. You or the person(s) you designate to act in your name should ask the doctor questions like these to determine the relative benefits and burdens of any medical treatment, procedure or medication that is being recommended by your doctor:*

- What is the purpose of this treatment, procedure or medication?
- How will this treatment affect my overall medical condition if it is successful?
- How will this treatment affect my overall medical condition if it is not successful?
- How will this treatment affect my quality of life (my ability to think, act, move, and care for myself) if it is successful?
- How will this treatment affect my quality of life (my ability to think, act, move, and care for myself) if it is not successful?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, what are the chances that this treatment will be successful for a person in my condition?
- What are the risks involved in this treatment for a person in my condition?
- What will happen if I do not choose this treatment?
- What is my short-term medical prognosis if I do or don't choose this treatment?
- What is my long-term medical prognosis if I do or don't choose this treatment?
- Would you recommend this treatment to a member of your family in my condition?
- What is an alternative to this treatment, procedure or medication?