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PHIL 314

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Quiz #2

Gawande argues for informed consent, that it is in the best interest of the patient to make healthcare decisions with the doctor rather than having the doctor make the decision for them. Socrates argued that it is in the best interest of those cared for to let the experts make the decision for them—to be their stewards.

- Why does Gawade argue that the stewardship model is not the best model?

What model does Gawade offer instead?

- Do you agree or disagree with Gawade?
- Do you agree or disagree with Plato?

Gawade argues that the stewardship model is not the best model, because he believes that the patient should be given the options of choosing their treatments. The patient's choice of treatments should be only allowed when the patient is informed of all of the possible issues and results that each of the treatments could cause. The stewardship model also does not allow for any agency in the patients choices over their own bodies so he argues that medical professionals should make the distinction between not allowing patients to harm themselves but also allowing them the choices between the treatments that can benefit them. I agree with both Gawade and Plato in certain instances in their arguments, but I am leaning towards supporting Gawades position more than Platos. With Gawade I believe that patients should be given options in their treatments if the outcomes and risks are very similar, so it is up to the patient to

choose what they value more in their treatments. However, I also agree with plato in that the truth matters the most as in saying that if there is a potential risk later down the line and the patient might be prone to choose an option that is less invasive or serious only for them to come to regret it later I believe that it should be the doctor, who is the expert on the topic, who offers the choices for the best care possible should perhaps be stressing the importance of their recommendation, but I don't think the doctor should ultimately make the decision for the patient.