

## Ethical Dilemma

My ethical obligation as a software developer in this situation is to decide what is right or wrong for this scenario, and what option will lead to more benefits than harm within a company, I am responsible to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public. In this scenario, releasing a medical device with a known bug that could harm users, even if the likelihood is low, directly conflicts with these responsibilities. If the error is to occur it can cause so much harm to its clients and customers to the point where the company will run out of customers and lose trust with its current customers. I am going to follow these clauses to ensure that everything will go well and positive within the company and its product, “Clause 1.03 Approve Software Only If It Is Safe”, “Clause 1.02 Balance Competing Interests”, and “Clause 2.09 Put client’s interests first, unless overriding moral concern”.

When I follow Clause 1.03, I have to approve software, complete developing the software, or launch the software for full release when it is safe and free of any errors, when there are no errors, it’ll be safe to use and it’ll prevent so many deaths, injuries, or harm within a company, we have put people over money first, which my company isn’t doing and isn’t following the law. I also must prioritize the safety of the customers over the profit of the company, because if a problem does occur, our company won’t be able to make profit. Allowing a potentially harmful product to reach patients would not only breach my duty to protect users but could also lead to serious consequences for both the public and the company if harm were to occur. When I follow Clause 1.02, I am ensuring that I’m balancing the customer’s interests with my company’s interest which includes my employer and colleagues. I plan on not following some of my employer’s interests like launching the software right away because I think there are moral concerns that the bug may hurt the individual more than it’ll hurt financially. I plan on

fulfilling my employer's interest of testing and debugging the software, and I would rather test and debug the software for longer periods of time than causing more harm to the clients and customers. When I follow Clause 2.09, I'm putting my customer's interests first over my companies interests due to moral reasons, because if my customers and clients like the product, they'll refer the product to other people and make it more popular, but if I release it and make the customers not like it, then it'll hurt the company more and profit will go down regardless.

If I decide to "whistle-blow" or refuse to release the product, I may face backlash from management and risk my career, but I would fulfill my ethical duty by whistle blowing to prevent harm and put my customers' interests of safety over my company's interest of making more money. My actions could also protect the company from reputational and legal repercussions should the device cause injury. As difficult as it may be to stand up to management pressures, my obligation to uphold software quality and public trust outweighs the immediate financial interests, ensuring that the product is truly safe for users before release. While I may not get a promotion or raise, I am ensuring that the customers will benefit more than me. I am willing to make some sacrifices for myself just so the customers can benefit.