**HC2: Bioethics**

**Key Principles of Biomedical Ethics**

**Autonomy**

* The patient has the right to choose to receive or refuse treatment.
* ***Informed consent*** – The person must understand what they’re consenting to, and the risks and benefits of the action.
	+ This is a relatively new idea. Even 60 years ago, doctors were trained to only give patients information that was absolutely necessary.
	+ Not always possible. When would this not be possible?
		- Not in a sound mental state
		- Usually informed consent passes to a close relative in this case.
		- Sometimes, if no relatives are available, we must use the principle of

beneficence.

**Beneficence and Non-Maleficence**

* + Always act in the patient’s best interest and never do harm.
	+ This may seem like common sense, but these two usually work together.
	+ Many beneficial procedures involve doing some harm.

**Justice**

* Fairness and Equality
* How do we decide who gets access to scarce health resources?
* Who decides what is ethical?

**4 Questions To Always Ask:**

1. What is the ethical question?
2. What are the relevant facts?
3. Who or what will be affected by the outcome?
4. What are the relevant ethical considerations? Such as:
* Respect for persons
* Harms and benefits
* Fairness
* Authenticity
* Responsibility