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With the increasing growth of the elderly population, geriatric care is becoming eminently important not only to medical professionals but also to all those involved in caring for the elderly including social workers, nursing home staff, and relatives. This timely work confronts in a clear and systematic fashion the many ethical issues concerning care for the elderly. For instance, what is sound ethical decision-making in relation to life-sustaining medical treatment for elderly patients? At a time when aging of the population is increasing the demand for health care, is age-rationing a justified means of cost control? How can investigators satisfy ethical requirements in relation to medical or social-scientific research with elderly subjects, and what special precautions are needed when elderly persons are ill, demented, dependent on social services, and/or institutionalized? What are the responsibilities of adult children toward frail elderly parents? How can professionals and relatives determine whether paternalism toward an elderly person is ethically justified? In an accessible way, this book explains the ethical and conceptual issues at stake. Several specific examples are also presented and each chapter ends with an extensive case study and analysis. This timely work will be a valuable resource for all those involved in geriatric care and to many in the field of bioethics.

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