

PHIL 226
Biomedical Ethics

- Exam Oct. 4
- Guest lectures Oct. 18, Nov. 6.
- Today: doctor/patient relationships.



1

Doctor/Patient Metaphors

- Parent/child (father - paternalism).
- Partner/partner
- Technician/client
- Rational contractors
- Producer/consumer
- Friends
- Multiple relationships

Nurse/Patient Metaphors

- Parent (mother) /child.
- Technician/client
- Boss/servant
- Doctor surrogate/patient
- Friends
- Multiple relationships

Ethical Implications

- Which way of thinking about doctor-patient relationships has the best consequences?
- Which way of thinking fits best with rights and duties?
- Which way of thinking fits best with ethical principles?
- What metaphors apply to other health professionals? Pharmacy, physiotherapy, chiropractic, naturopathy, researchers, etc.?

Discussion question

- What do you think are the best metaphors to describe the relationship between health care professionals and their patients or clients?