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Ke ords: Advance directives; Legal principles; Ethical dilemmas; Informed consent; Patient autonomy; Medical decision-making; Right to refuse treatment

Introduction

Advance directives are essential tools in healthcare that empower individuals to make decisions about their medical treatment and care

wishes con ict with local legal interpretations. ese inconsistencies pose signi cant challenges for healthcare providers who must navigate di ering legal standards while respecting the intent of the patient.

Ethical dimensions of advance directives ethically, advance directives are rooted in the principle of autonomy the right of individuals to make decisions about their own bodies and medical care [6]. A fundamental ethical question that arises is whether advance directives truly re ect the individual's wishes and values. Over time, a person's preferences may change, particularly as their health condition evolves. For instance, a person may change their mind about life-sustaining treatments based on new experiences or understanding of their condition. Yet, once an advance directive is made, it may not always capture these changes, leading to potential con icts between the original document and current patient preferences. A signi cant ethical dilemma occurs when family members or healthcare providers disagree with the decisions outlined in the advance directive. In some cases, family members may contest the directive, arguing that it does not align with the individual's true desires or values, o en citing the person's beliefs or personal history [7]. Healthcare providers may face moral con icts when the instructions in the advance directive are in con ict with their personal or professional values, particularly regarding end-of-life care or the withdrawal of life support. For example, in some religious or cultural contexts, withdrawing life-sustaining treatment may be seen as morally