**Case Study[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Appeals to Justice (Timed Activity, 30 minutes total)

Oakley is a 21-year-old, smart, hardworking student. Oakley has not been given a lot of financial or emotional support for her schooling and has had to struggle independently to cover costs. On top of all that, Oakley must deal with the side effects and expenses of Crohn’s disease, a chronic inflammatory disease of the gastrointestinal tract. Due to this disease, Oakley must be careful not to overwork or overstress as it may induce severe intestinal flare ups. This is hard to do considering Oakely must work while going to school and regularly worries about being able to pay all the bills related to school, rent, and groceries. After being malnourished and dehydrated, Oakley has suffered from two infection-causing kidney stones because she has not been able to pay for her Crohn’s medication. She refuses the required surgery to remove the kidney stones because she does not have health insurance and she cannot pay out of pocket.

* 5 minutes: After considering relevant or missing facts of the case, articulate alternative actions that the physician might take in this situation.
* 15 minutes: Evaluate each alternative according to the appeals (you have 15 minutes total for all appeals, so be mindful to get through all of them)
* Pay special attention to which approaches of justice—libertarian, egalitarian, or basic decent minimum (descriptions below)—you prioritize
* 5 minutes to reach a decision and outline first steps of a plan of action
* **LIBERTARIAN**: everyone should receive health care benefits that they can pay for
* **EGALITARIAN**: everyone should receive health care benefits in proportion to their medical needs
* **BASIC DECENT MINIMUM**: everyone should receive an “average” level of services and can pay beyond that level

1. Adapted from “Case Study: Health Care and Justice,” Binghamton University. Accessed January 18, 2020: <http://parenethical.com/phil148sum11/2011/06/22/case-study-health-care-and-justice/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)