**Key Terms**

*Ethical Choices*, Third Edition

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Chapter 15: Medical Ethics – Futility

**applied ethics** *(Part III Introduction)*Draws from one or more ethical theories to provide analyses and guidance for resolving many practical moral problems.

**challenge study** Orders usually agreed to by patients who don’t want to be kept alive at all costs.

**Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders** Orders usually agreed to by patients who don’t want to be kept alive at all costs.

**ethical pluralism** *(Part III Introduction)*Maintains that no single comprehensive ethical account exists; rather, morality consists of distinct branches that may be largely unrelated to each other.

**futile treatment** A treatment that, for a specific patient and situation, is not likely to bring to the patient any improvement in her physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

**living will** A document previously prepared by a patient that specifies what sorts of medical treatments the patient either does or does not want when the patient is unable to make decisions for herself.

**proxy** A person who makes medical decisions for the patient when the patient can’t make decisions for herself.

**palliative care** Care provided to seriously ill patients to relieve pain and discomfort and support their quality of life as far as is possible.

**triage** The strategy of first treating patients who can benefit most when there are not adequate medical resources to treat everyone in need.