

## CASES FOR ROLE PLAY

### **Artificial Feeding and Hydration**

DW is an 82-year-old widowed retired secretary with advanced dementia. She is cared for in the home of her married daughter, who is her power-of-attorney for health affairs. She requires assistance in all her domestic activities (bathing, feeding, toileting, ambulation, etc) She spends most of the day in bed, or lying on the sofa. She speaks very little, and not very intelligibly. She has recently stopped eating almost everything. She bites the spoon when it is brought to her mouth and/or pockets food in her cheeks without swallowing. She was admitted to the hospital several months ago for the treatment of aspiration pneumonia. The possibility of a feeding tube has been raised. You are discussing this with the daughter.

### **Resuscitation**

KE is a 68-year-old truck driver with advanced esophageal cancer. Despite surgical resection and combination chemotherapy and radiotherapy, the disease has progressed. Although he denies pain or breathlessness, he does indicate overall fatigue. He has lost 10 pounds over the past month. Recent studies have demonstrated malignant pleural effusion and liver metastases. He knows these results. You are seeing him in the office to discuss further care.

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