

## **Abstract**

The diploma thesis discusses the issue of family and the approach to family in the context of current medical ethics.

The introduction describes the perception of family by humanities and social sciences and identifies the elements shared by all disciplines, including health care.

The first section of the thesis looks into the development of the relationship between the physician and the patient and his or her family, ranging from a paternalistic relationship to informed consent to patients' previously expressed wishes. The author places each of these principles in context with legislative and ethical norms and highlights the dilemmas associated with the understanding thereof. At the same time it solves the possibilities of family involvement in each of them.

The second section of the thesis focuses on palliative care. It describes the basic principles related to adult patients at the terminal stage of their illness and also the procedures followed in paediatric and perinatal palliative care. The conclusion offers a description of the practical procedures followed when this care was being introduced at the Královské Vinohrady University Hospital in Prague. Part of the thesis is also casuistry derived from the operation of the palliative care team.