

Abstract

Ethical aspects of involuntary hospitalization of psychiatric patients

My thesis is a brief introduction to the topic of ill-defined ethical situations with patients, who are hospitalized involuntarily at a psychiatric ward. My work seeks support in valid laws and also in clerical documents so it can detect complexities that doctors as well as patients must face. Involuntary hospitalization seems like a marginal phenomenon, but by taking a closer look we can find out that annually there are thousands of people hospitalized involuntarily in the Czech Republic alone.

After defining initial basic concepts my work shortly addresses history of care of mentally ill patients, legislature and its evolution, and current situation, which it strives to connect to clerical documents that deal with human liberty and dignity. This thesis is aware of changes within the frame of reform of psychiatric care that is taking place in the Czech Republic at the moment and it offers only limited insight into the issue as a whole.

Keywords

Involuntary hospitalization at a psychiatric ward, dignity, freedom, ethics

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