

NARRATIVES FOR THE DIALOGUE SHEET

Johan, 79, has come to seek help at the hospital

Johan has lived alone in his cottage for many years, looking after himself and his cats. A neighbour gave him a lift to the hospital, as he had fallen when chopping wood and broken his leg. When he arrives he is thin and dirty but aware of the situation, place and time.

He has some wounds that need to be taken care of, such as a deep cut on his hand due to being injured by the axe when he fell. His shirt is blood stained and stuck to his wounds but Johan doesn't want to take it off. He protests loudly when the care staff want to remove the shirt and shower him. Despite repeated attempts by the staff, he refuses to open the buttons. He claims that it isn't necessary and that he has never needed help from any doctor or other people.

Sven and Elsa

Sven and Elsa are married and live in a detached house that Sven built himself. Both are around 85 years old and have two adult children and five grandchildren. In recent years Elsa has become increasingly forgetful. The couple have found a way of cooperating whereby Elsa can maintain her identity and feel that she is able to manage her usual tasks in the home.

Now Sven has become ill with cancer of the pancreas. He is rapidly becoming weaker and more or less bed ridden. He wants to stay at home with Elsa and doesn't want to consider going in to hospital. He wants to be with Elsa and die at home. Their home is rapidly falling into decay, as Elsa can no longer take care of it without Sven's guidance. Their children want Sven to be hospitalised and Elsa placed in a home for people with dementia. They argue the matter with care representatives, claiming that it's unethical to let old people live like that.

A pre hospital care situation

Juan is a 77 years old man who lives alone and suffers from severe heart failure and other diseases that have made him physically weak but his cognitive functions are intact. The past 3–4 years have been very difficult and Juan's COPD has become increasingly evident. After his wife's death, his two daughters assumed more and more responsibility for looking after him. The home care service is invaluable but not sufficient. His daughters perceive that the situation is becoming more and more untenable. After some persuasion, Juan moved to a nursing home two months ago.

Juan has again been treated in hospital for heart failure and is now to be transported back to the nursing home.

Together with his daughters and the doctor responsible for his treatment, he has formulated a document stating that he does not wish to be treated should he become critically ill, even if the treatment will save his life. The paramedics are informed about his wishes. Juan's condition remains stable during the hour long transport, in the course of which he relates that he is tired of life and wants to be released from his suffering. The paramedics bring him back to the nursing home.

Only a few hours later, Juan's breathing deteriorates and he indicates clearly to the nursing staff that he does not want to see a doctor. During the night his condition deteriorates further and in the morning his breathing is quick and noisy. He is in a cold sweat and difficult to communicate with. The nurse responsible dials 112. By coincidence, the same paramedics as the day before arrive. They establish that Juan has developed an acute, life-threatening pulmonary oedema. His lips are blue, he is distressed and it is impossible to communicate with him. There is fear in his eyes and it is obvious that he is suffering. His daughters are not present and the nursing staff declare that they don't want to handle the situation themselves.

An "assault" on a sleeping patient

The following occurred during the morning rounds at a nursing home. Ester is sleeping in a four-bed room. She is tired in the mornings, which she shows by being contrary, surly and stubborn. This morning a nursing assistant enters, turns on the overhead light and starts talking to Ester in a loud voice. She starts removing the quilt before Ester has had a chance to wake up and understand what is happening. There is almost a fight between the two and Ester gets up after a lot of ifs and buts.

A gynaecological examination and students

Anna, 19 years old, comes to the gynaecological examination due to itching and irritation in the genital area for a few days. She is anxious as it is the first time that she will be examined by a gynaecologist. When Anna has described her symptoms, the doctor starts the examination. A nurse is present in the room.

During the examination two students suddenly burst in, saying that their supervisor had promised them that they could attend the examination. They chat about all sorts of things. Anna becomes tense and nervous.

The doctor asks Anna if she agrees to the students being present. She responds nervously "I'd rather they leave but if they have to be present I suppose I'll have to put up with it".

