



# Reasoning with Ethics

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A Project of The School for Ethical Education | [www.ethicsed.org](http://www.ethicsed.org)

***"Ethics in action creates character."***

Use this blog to:

1. Lead class discussions in social studies, civics, ethics or advisory classes.
2. Teach students skills to analyze cases with core ethical values.
3. Recognize skills in support of SEE's Tri-Factor Model of ethical functioning.

**Visit the online Ethics Blog.**

## ***Honest Billing?***

A recent report by CBS News has revealed that small, rural hospitals such as Chestatee Regional in rural north Georgia are being purchased for their ability to receive higher insurance payments for work done at the hospital. Then, in what appears to be a deception of insurers,

medical procedures such as blood work for toxicity screening completed in urban diagnostic clinics, are billed as if they were completed at the rural hospital to obtain the higher insurance payment schedule.



One example cited was of Chestatee Regional Hospital purchased by Mr. Aaron Durall, a lawyer and leader of a blood laboratory network based in Florida. Soon after the purchase, Chestatee's billing department was receiving payments for work completed at Durall's urban diagnostic centers. Insurers call it an illegal scam, while the billing department for Chestatee Regional cited all their billing practices as legal.

SEE asks students, what would you do if you knew that your employer, a local hospital, was part of a larger medical services network and it was billing insurance companies for work done in other states in order to receive higher reimbursements? What core values would guide your decision? Is anyone harmed in this practice?

Regarding the response sought in this issue, SEE welcomes students to post on our website at [http://bit.ly/Ethics\\_Case](http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case) where more information is available for *Reasoning with Ethics*. A video link with more details for this case is available at <http://bit.ly/billing-fraud>

## **Contact information**

The School for Ethical Education is a not for profit teaching agency in Milford, CT with the mission to advance strategies of placing ethics in action to create character. As a non-sectarian 501(C)3, SEE is supported by fees for service, grants and donations. For more information visit our website at [www.ethicsed.org](http://www.ethicsed.org). Please reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject heading if you want to be removed from this Reasoning with Ethics Blog.