



# 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.](#)

## *The Mystery of Medical Billing*

Anyone who has experience in paying for health care expenses understands the frustration and confusion associated with medical billing. With or without insurance, health care costs often lack transparency and vary unexplainably within and outside of regions of the US.



CBS News is reporting on the cost variance of similar procedures and recognize a blood test could vary in price between \$15 to \$126 and an ultrasound from \$115 to \$2,459. Arriving at these billing estimates is also a problem in the health industry. Unlike shopping for cars, homes and insurance itself, there is no online research resource for consumers to compare prices between hospitals or between doctors. During a health crisis when insurance doesn't cover procedures, or when someone is uninsured, the need to quickly understand pricing is critically important.

The secrecy of health care costs presents an ethical question. Students are asked to consider, what core ethical values are demonstrated (or compromised) when hospitals or doctors fail to provide transparency in their medical billing? In addition, what ideas would students suggest ensuring the cost of medical procedures are more accessible to potential patients?

Regarding the response sought for this issue, SEE welcomes students to post on our website at [http://bit.ly/Ethics\\_Case](http://bit.ly/Ethics_Case) about this archived case. More information and a related video is available at -- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/back-surgery-saved-him-from-paralysis-then-the-bills-arrived-over-650000/> (6:49 min video)

### **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.