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| **Macro-category** | **Sub-categories** | **Sub-categories** | **Definition** | **Coding rules** | **Examples** |
| **1. END-OF-LIFE MOBILISATION** | **1.1 Personal battle** | **1.1.1 Appeal for mercy killing** | The title reports an appeal or an attempt to terminate a vegetative state patient's life by withdrawing nutrition and hydration. | In the title, it must be present an explicit reference to caregivers, relatives or doctors advocating for the withdrawal of any sort of life support from a vegetative state patient. Also, personal attempts at withdrawing nutrition or hydration fall within this category. | "Woman appeals for daughter’s mercy killing".  "Parents seek euthanasia for their bed-ridden son". |
|  |  | **1.1.2 Appeal for continuing life support** | The title reports an appeal or an attempt to keep life supports to a vegetative state patient. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to caregivers, relatives or doctors advocating for the continuation of any sort of life support to a vegetative state patient. | "Brain-injured man's family fights to continue NHS medical treatment".  "Alfie Evans: Parents in legal fight to take brain damaged son to Vatican doctors". |
|  | **1.2 Legal battle** | **1.2.1 Right-to-die** | The title refers to the attempt to legalise either passive or active euthanasia. In other words, any legal attempt to establish a right-to-die. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to a past or current legal fight in favour of withdrawing any sort of life support from a vegetative state patient. Also, an open reference to the right-to-die fall within this category. | "Legal barriers to euthanasia are receding".  "Right to die: Lines remain divided on legalising passive euthanasia". |
|  |  | **1.2.2 Right-to-life** | The title refers to fight against the legalisation of either passive or active euthanasia. In other words, any attempt to preserve the right-to-life | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to a past or present legal fight against the withdrawing of any sort of life support from a vegetative state patient. Also, an open reference to the right-to-life fall within this category. | "Right are tools for life, not for death"  "France, Vincent Lambert's right-to-life battle continues". |
|  | **1.3 Political battle** |  | The title reports a political discussion or action (i.e. politician, bishops) in favour or against life support withdrawal. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to a political actor who is taking a position in the debate around the end-of-life regulation. In particular, by taking position in a specific mediatic and controversial case. | "The Bishops: "Eluana must live". The Father: The Church should mind its own business".   "Berlusconi said no to the administrative order to save her". |
|  | **1.4 Specific case debate** |  | The title makes a reference to a case that is triggering an ethical and legal debate around the end-of-life regulations. The actors and the positions involved are not explicated in the title. | In the title must it be present a reference to a specific case that is triggering debate in the public discourse. The actors that take part in the debate are not specified in the title. | "Bhatia Hospital death puts spotlight on euthanasia law"  "Shanbaug’ death reignites debate" |
| **2. IS ANYONE IN THERE?** | **2.1 Disputing awareness** | **2.1.1 Is awareness possible?** | The title poses a question about the possibility of awareness in a vegetative state patient. | In the title it must be present a question that refers either explicitly or implicitly to the possibility of consciousness in a vegetative state patient. | "Is anyone in there?"  "What kind of consciousness?" |
|  |  | **2.1.2 Presence of awareness** | The title states the presence of awareness in a vegetative state patient. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to the presence of awareness in a vegetative state patient. | "He is aware but incapable of communicating".  "Brain remains aware even in the vegetative coma". |
|  |  | **2.1.3 Absence of awareness** | The title states the absence of awareness in a vegetative state patient. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to the absence of awareness in a vegetative state patient. | "A body without a soul".  "She lost any perception, she won't notice anything". |
|  | **2.2. Detecting awareness** | **2.2.1 Signs of awareness** | The title makes reference to signs that can potentially be the proof of awareness in vegetative state patients. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to signs that prove presence of awareness or cerebral activity in a vegetative state patient. | "Neurons of patients in a vegetative state produce electric activity".  "Proof of life in the waking dead patients". |
|  |  | **2.2.2 Testing awareness** | The title refers to the possibility of assessing the presence of awareness in a vegetative state patient. | In the title must be present the reference to a test to assess awareness. | "Neurologist versus judges: there are no other tests to do". |
|  | **2.3 Looking for signs of life** | **2.3.1 Emotions** | The title alludes to the possibility of having emotions while being in a vegetative state. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to the presence of emotions (such as reactions; i.e. smile) in a vegetative state patient. | "They feel emotions thanks to music".  "Brain damaged for 37 years, but fish still makes Aruna smile". |
|  |  | **2.3.2 Understanding and feelings** | The title alludes to the possibility that a vegetative state patient is able to understand and feel what is happening around him/her. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to the possibility of understanding by a vegetative state patient. | "How much can a coma patient understand?".  "What did Eluana feel?". |
|  |  | **2.3.3 Communication** | The title alludes to the possibility or to the attempt of communicating with a patient in a vegetative state. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to the possibility or to the attempt of communicating with a patient in a vegetative state. | "We will be able to talk with people that are not able to reply".  "Don't turn off my life-support; How one man was nearly allowed to die - until he used his eyes to plead for his life!". |
| **3.BUILDING HOPE** | **3.1 Giving life** | **3.1.1 Keep living in other people  (Transplants)** | The title contains a reference to the possibility of living in different persons thanks to organ transplants from a vegetative state patient. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to transplants. The implicit reference should be about a patient's life that is continuing in another person. | "My husband will continue to live in five persons".  "Brain dead woman gives life to four in Madurai". |
|  |  | **3.1.2 Pregnancy** | The title contains a reference to the possibility of being pregnant while being in a vegetative state. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to the story of a woman that either is or got pregnant while being in a vegetative state. | "Pregnancy. The experts: «Possible»".  "Rare but possible. If assisted by experts a woman can be pregnant". |
|  |  | **3.1.3 Giving birth** | The title contains a reference to the story about people that give birth while being in a vegetative state. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to the story of a woman who gave birth while being in a vegetative state. | "Woman in vegetative state for decade gives birth in nursing home".  "In the mysterious limbo of her vegetative state, Carolina did it. She could hear the cry of her baby, came into being through a C-section". |
|  |  | **3.1.4 Fertility** | The title contains a reference to the fact that a patient in a vegetative state is, at least potentially, fertile. | In the title it must be present either an implicit or an explicit reference to the possibility of being fertile while being in a vegetative state. | "Woman fights to harvest sperm of fiancé in vegetative state" |
|  | **3.2 Awakenings** | **3.2.1 Waking up** | The title contains a reference to a patient who awoke from the vegetative state. "Awake" means, a patient whose consciousness has been restored. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to a person that awoke after being in a vegetative state. "Going out of a coma" fall in this category. | "After 45 months, the miraculous awakening".  "Mariam is out of coma". |
|  |  | **3.2.2 People who restore consciousness** | The title contains a reference to a person capable of restoring consciousness in a vegetative state patient. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to a person capable of restoring consciousness in a vegetative state patient. | "The woman who wakes consciousness up".  "Family voices and jokes help coma victims wake up sooner". |
|  |  | **3.2.3 Miraculous therapies** | The title contains a reference to a therapy capable of restoring consciousness in a vegetative state patient. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to a therapy (either a surgical operation or a drug) capable of restoring consciousness in a vegetative state patient. | "Nerve implant 'restores consciousness' to man in vegetative state".  "The pill of the miraculous awakening". |
|  | **3.3. Fighting for life** | **3.3.1 Fighting** | The title contains references to a patient in a vegetative state who is fighting for his/her own life. | In the title it must be present a reference to a patient who is fighting for is life. | "Girls in Juhu car crash in coma, fighting for life"  "Cut off from life, victim of attack fights" |
|  |  | **3.2.2 Improvements** | The title contains a reference to the improvement of the clinical conditions of a patient in a vegetative state, alluding to the possibility to regain consciousness or other functions | The title must contain a reference to the improvement of the clinical conditions of a patient in a vegetative state, alluding to the possibility to regain consciousness. Also, the reference to the recovery of some functions fall within this category. | "Resuscitation case patient 'has shown improvement'".  "Aruna's health improves but she's still in ICU".  "The chances of a full recovery from serious brain injuries have improved". |
| **4. ECONOMIC** | **4.1 Costs** | **4.1.1 Private costs** | The title contains a reference to caregivers' economic difficulties in affording medical expenses required to take care of a patient in a vegetative state. | The title must contain a reference to the expenses or the effort that a family has to do in order to address the needs of a patient in a vegetative state. | "Batchmates raise funds for traffic cop's family".  "Hospital expenses kept us away, says Aruna’s sister".  "I need a home, I have to be with my sick husband". |
|  |  | **4.1.2 Public costs** | The title contains a reference to the expenses that the public health system has to face in order to assist a patient in a vegetative state. | The title must contain a reference to the costs that are needed to assist a patient in a vegetative state. | "Public health can just cover 3 months of recovery".   "MURDERER IN COMA COSTS US €300,000; State foots Evans' security bill". |
|  | **4.2 Compensations** |  | The title contains a reference to a sum of money which is given to either a vegetative state patient or a caregiver as a compensation or a refund for expenses. | The title must contain a reference to a sum of money which is given to either a vegetative state patient or a caregiver as a compensation/ refund for expenses. | "Teen in vegetative state gets Rs. 66 lakh solatium".  "Coma girl wins pounds 1.7 M after mum's four-year battle". |
|  | **4.3 Management of goods and properties** |  | The title contains a reference to the material goods or properties of a patient in a vegetative state | The title must contain a reference to the management of a vegetative state patients' goods or properties. | "HC: settle terminal benefits to teacher"  "Wife of man in coma gets HC nod to operate his bank account". |
| **5.QUESTIONING EXPERTS** | **5.1 Unreliable diagnoses** | **5.1.1 Mistaken Diagnoses** | The title reports the idea that it is possible to get a wrong diagnosis of Vegetative State, while you are in a similar but different condition (i.e. minimally conscious state, locked-in syndrome). | The title contains a reference to the story of a patient that has been labelled with a wrong diagnosis of Vegetative State. The title can also contain statistic about the % of mistakes in diagnosing the vegetative state. | "40% of diagnoses are wrong".  "Child not in a vegetative state". |
|  |  | **5.1.2 Diagnostic uncertainty** | The title reposts doubts about the possibility of making a clear and definitive diagnosis. | In the title it must be present idea that is difficult to reach a clear, straightforward and definitive diagnoses in the case of a vegetative state patient. | "We must clarify the Vegetative State diagnosis".  "It is easy to confuse a minimally conscious state for a vegetative state". |
|  | **5.2 Medical mistakes** |  | The title makes a reference to medical errors that either caused the vegetative state or killed the patient. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to a medical mistake. In this case, the implicit reference consists in reporting the legal consequences for physicians. | "Anaesthetist’s licence suspended for a year".  "Four physicians investigated".  "5-year-old victim of medical negligence survives on hope". |
|  | **5.3 Controversy** | **5.3.1 Conflict between experts** | The title contains a reference to an ongoing conflict between experts around the definition of an aspect related with a vegetative state patient. | In the title it must be present a reference to a disagreement between experts in defining an aspect related with a vegetative state patient. | "Eluana can eat". "No, she can't, she need the feeding tube". Clash between physicians.  " Medical opinion divided on long-term hopes of recovery". |
|  |  | **5.3.2 Conflict between experts and lay people** | The title contains a reference to a conflict between experts and lay people. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to a conflict with experts (i.e. physicians) and lay people in taking a decision. | "Judge tells family of ill boy to respect doctor who urged an end to treatment". |
| **6. NO FUTURE CONDITION** | **6.1 A gloomy future** | **6.1.1 Worsening** | The title refers to the worsening health conditions of a patient in a vegetative state. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to the worsening health conditions of a patient in a vegetative state. | "Aruna Shanbaug in ICU with pneumonia"  "Schumi wasting away in coma" |
|  |  | **6.1.2 Death after Vegetative State** | The title reports the death of a patient after being in a vegetative state. | In the title it must be present a reference to a death of a patient in a vegetative state. | "Girl in coma for nearly three months dies".  "Face of Mum blasts dies after 9 years in hospital". |
|  |  | **6.1.3 Palliative care** | The title alludes at the delivery of palliative care to a patient in a vegetative state. | In the title it must be present a reference to paliative cares in the treatment of a vegetative state patient. | "Just palliative therapies: goodbye to Zoe"  "No asylum or home is willing to give any palliative care to the child" |
|  |  | **6.1.4 Caregivers' burden** | The title refers to caregivers' burden in assisting patients in a vegetative state | In the title it must be present a reference to caregivers' negative consequences due to caring a patient in a vegetative state. | "Caregivers live seven years less than average".  "Parents who face years of caring for their son 24 hours a day". |
|  | **6.2 Waiting room** | **6.2.1 Irreversibility** | The title refers to the impossibility of recovery from a vegetative state condition. | In the title it must be present an either an explicit or an implicit reference to the impossibility of recovery from a vegetative state condition. | "News about Schumacher: no more good news".  "Irreversibility. Science experts are unanimous: there are no cases of "return" to consciousness after year of vegetative state". |
|  |  | **6.2.2 Immobility** | The title alludes to the amount of time that can be spent in a vegetative state. The idea of being blocked is stressed. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to the amount of time spent in a vegetative state. | "For over 3 years, teacher lies brain dead"  "A prisoner of circumstances, for 36 years" |
|  | **6.3. A Limbo: Neither alive nor dead** | **6.3.1 Reshaping life and death** | The title describes the vegetative state as a situation that challenges the traditional understanding of life and death. The question of what life and what is death are it is often posed. | In the title it must be present a reference to the changes of the traditional concept of life and death. | "Death is not what it used to be"  "Life is another thing" |
|  |  | **6.3.2 Living- dead** | The title contains the metaphor of the living-dead to describe the ambiguous reality of the vegetative state | In the title it must be present a metaphor drawing on the idea of the living-dead character. | "My life as a zombie, by victim of walking corpse syndrome". |
|  |  | **6.3.3 Vegetable** | The title contains the metaphor of the vegetable to describe the ambiguous reality of the vegetative state. | In the title it must be present a metaphor that draws on the idea of being like a plant. | "Anna is a vegetable".  "Better than living as a vegetable" |
| **7. WHEN TO END?** | **7.1 Living will** | **7.1.1 Legislation** | The title refers to updates about living will legislation. | In the title it must be present a reference to living will legislation. | "State has no plans to bring in living will legislation".  "SC hints it may legalise living will". |
|  |  | **7.1.2 Information** | The title contains a reference to a what living will is and how to do it. | In the title it must be present a reference to instructions or information about the living will. | "How to do a living will".  "Know what living will is? Just 1 in 4 does". |
|  | **7.2 Who should decide** | **7.2.1 God** | The title contains the idea that only God should decide over ending the life of a vegetative state patient. | In the title it must be present either an explicit or an implicit reference to god while talking about end-of-life decision-making. | "Only God can end patient's life".  "Playing God". |
|  |  | **7.2.2 Patient** | The title contains the idea that someone should be free to decide about his/her own life while talking about withdrawing or keeping life supports. | In the title it must be present an explicit or implicit reference to personal will while talking about end-of-life decision-making. | "We should be free to die as we like". |
|  |  | **7.2.3 Caregivers** | The title contains the idea that caregivers should decide over withdrawing or keeping life support. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference either to caregivers' or decision by proxy. | "Medical decisions by proxy to plug legal gap". |
|  |  | **7.2.4 Court** | The title reports court decisions over withdrawing or keeping life supports to a patient in a vegetative state. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to a court that deliberates on keeping or withdrawing life supports. | "Court decision no longer required in right-to-die cases, judge rules". |
|  |  | **7.2.5 Experts** | The title contains a reference to the fact that experts should decide in case of life support withdrawing. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to experts examining and deliberating in a situation of end-of-life decision making. | "HC forms doctors’ team to determine plea for euthanasia".  "Living will. The experts should decide" |
|  | **7.3 Decisional dilemmas** | **7.3.1 Care or aggressive treatment?** | The title contains the reference to a dilemma between keeping or withdrawing life supports. | In the title it must be present a question or a dilemma about keeping or withdrawing life support. | "Holding on, or letting go"  "The care should not be aggressive" |
|  |  | **7.3.2 Conscientious objection** | The title contains a reference to the right of physicians to refuse to deliver euthanasia to withdraw life supports. | In the title it must be present an explicit reference to physicians' conscientious objection. | "Also, physicians' conscience should be respected".  "Conscientious objection should be considered in living will law". |
| **8. LAY EXPLANATIONS** | **8.1 Causes** |  | The title contains the cause that brought about the vegetative state. | In the title it must be present a potential cause for the vegetative state. | "Cardiac arrest drug has left thousands with brain damage, say scientists"  "For a broken paddle". |
|  | **8.2 Portraits** | 8.2.1 **Stories** | The title contains a reference to the story either of a vegetative state patient or their caregivers. | In the title it must be present a reference to the story either of a vegetative state patient or their caregivers. | "Injured sailor left in vegetative state".  "The story". |
|  |  | 8.2.2 **Personifications** | The title contains the reference to the name of a patient as a symbol of the vegetative state condition. | In the title it must be present the name of a patient in a vegetative state used as a symbol of the condition. | "Nineteen cases as Eluana at Palazzolo institute". |
|  | **8.3 Crime and justice news** |  | The title contains a reference to crime and justice news related with the victim in a vegetative state | In the title it must be present a reference to the responsible for the vegetative state, to a trial, or to the family of a patient claiming for justice. | "Trying Aruna assailant for murder ".  "We want justice for our sons; victims' family demand answer". |