

- 9 Hall C. Case highlights medical dilemma of terminally ill. *The Independent* 1990 Mar 16: 4.
- 10 Airedale NHS Trust v Bland [1993] A C 789; [1993] 1 All E R 821. [1994] 1 F C R 485.
- 11 Law Hospital NHS Trust v Lord Advocate, 1996 S L T 848. See also the Irish case of *In the Matter of a Ward* (1995) 2 I L R M 401.
- 12 See McLean SAM. End-of-life decisions and the law. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 1996; 22: 261–2. For English law cases which have followed Bland, see *Frenchay Healthcare Trust v S* [1994] 1 W L R 601; [1994] 2 All E R 403; *Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust v S* [1995] 3 Med L Rev 84 and *Re G (Persistent Vegetative State)* [1995] 2 F C R 46.
- 13 [1993] AC 789 at 882A.
- 14 1996 SLT 848 at 852L.
- 15 See reference 14: 859F.
- 16 Jennett B. Letting vegetative patients die. *British Medical Journal* 1992; 305: 1305–6, at 1305.
- 17 See reference 13: 885G.
- 18 [1993] AC 789 at 887B–C.
- 19 Beloff J. Killing or letting die? Is there a valid moral distinction? *Newsletter*. Voluntary Euthanasia Society of Scotland, 1993 Jan: 4–5, emphasis added.

News and notes

Breast cancer: research without consent

The UK Breast Cancer Coalition, representing women with breast cancer from all parts of the United Kingdom, is concerned that research without consent still continues in this country. They hope for a return to the spirit of the Nuremberg Code (1947) and its unequivocal statement that “the voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential”.

The board of the coalition has endorsed the following resolution: “We, members of the UK Breast Cancer Coalition, request the World Medical Assembly to consider our petition that the following

clause be deleted from the Declaration of Helsinki, as amended in 1983:

‘II Medical research combined with professional care (clinical research): 5. If the physician considers it essential not to obtain informed consent, the specific reasons for this proposal should be stated in the experimental protocol for transmission to the independent committee’.

For further comment contact Heather Goodare, Chair, Research Committee, UK Breast Cancer Coalition, Tel: 01403 261674.