

Group Roles

Below is background information on each of the people who have an interest in Andrea's health. In your assigned role, you are to arrive at a decision on whether to offer the proposed treatment to Andrea, who is in a **medically induced coma** and cannot speak for herself.

The proposed treatment: The healthcare team has agreed that Andrea will need to spend five months to over a year in the hospital's Burn Care Center under the care of the team. They anticipate that Andrea will have to undergo 19 surgeries in order to survive. She has already lost a hand and one eye, and has been disfigured by the burns.

Andrea's Dad

He's 79 years old and has no family other than Andrea. His wife, Andrea's mother, passed away a few years ago. He lives nearby but doesn't drive and needs to get a ride to the hospital.

Note: some of these facts are made up and not included in the Podcast episode, but they may help inform your decision making.

Andrea's Friends

They have known her for 20 years and describe her as a "perfect woman" who "had it all" and would light up any room she went into. They remember her as always having her nails done and having beautiful blond hair and a flattering figure. They believe that her appearance and presentation is a big part of her personality and charm. They are adamant that she would not want to live through these injuries.

Healthcare Team

The healthcare team of doctors and nurses has been caring for Andrea since her recent arrival. The team's primary objective is to give her the best chance at survival and an ideal quality of life given the circumstances. They aim to support the physical and emotional health of the patient and her family.

Hospital Ethics Committee

The goal of the hospital ethics committee is to help the other parties make the best decision— what would Andrea want? Ideally, they would find proof of Andrea's wishes, whether that is in the form of text messages, a written record, or something else.

Legally, they must consider the decision of Andrea's father, who is her blood relative and next of kin. They are also facing pressure from Andrea's friends who believe that they are accurately representing her wishes when she is incapable of doing so herself.