Thank you for agreeing to contribute to an issue of Continuum. This brief guide outlines your responsibilities when writing an Ethical Perspectives article for Continuum.

HONORARIA
Each Ethical Perspectives author will receive an honorarium and a complimentary one-year subscription to Continuum.

ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES IN NEUROLOGY INSTRUCTIONS
Each Continuum issue is accompanied by one Ethical Perspectives in Neurology section (EPN), which includes a brief case synopsis followed by a discussion of the practical ethical issues in the case. While the discussion should present both sides of an issue (which most cases have), it is nonetheless permissible to express a preferred ethical recommendation.

The best EPNs are based on actual clinical cases but should be written in such a way that the identities of the patients, families, physicians, or other health care professionals involved are not divulged. The case should contain only as much clinical information as is necessary to describe the ethical dilemma. The purpose of the EPN is to provide the discussion of the ethical considerations of the case.

Strive to use clinically important, but not esoteric, cases. Of course unusual cases may provide useful information about common disorders as well.

Format
EPNs should be approximately 1000 to 1500 words in length. EPNs should be presented in the form of a narrative that leads to the presentation of an ethical dilemma for the physician to resolve. The focus of the EPN is pragmatic and problem oriented and is not intended to be a review of a particular ethical problem or an opinion piece. Rather, it should be a teaching case with a succinct and balanced discussion. EPNs that do not present a pragmatic, problem-oriented case will be returned to the author with a request either to revise the case or to submit another. Examples of previously published EPNs are available from the Continuum editorial office upon request.

Learning Objective
A one-sentence educational objective detailing the knowledge to be gained by participants upon reading Ethical Perspectives in Neurology should be included. This will appear on the Learning Objectives page near the front of the issue.

Abstract
Include an abstract of not more than 125 words.

Discussion
The discussion should be brief but contain enough detail to offer guidance, much like the approach on teaching rounds of giving a two- to three-minute mini-lecture or discussion. The discussion preferably should be written in the third person, using plural pronouns wherever practicable so as to avoid the cumbersome he/she or him/her approach to singular pronouns while remaining gender neutral. It is best to avoid first person sentences (eg, I or we), although in the circumstance where the author expresses a preferable ethical course of action, this may be permissible. Similarly, avoid the use of sentence construction with “The neurologist should…” or “The physician should…..”

The essence of ethical discussion is to start from the facts of the case and then apply ethical principles necessary for decision making. As a general rule, the discussion should pertain to the facts and principles, and authors should refrain from making statements that could be interpreted as disrespectful of persons or groups who hold views different from the author’s (ie, no ad hominem arguments).

Again, advice given in the discussion should be practical. It can be helpful to identify when there is more than one ethically permissible solution to the case, and it can also be helpful to identify additional steps (eg, meeting with patient, family, or colleagues; obtaining legal or ethics consultation) that would guide neurologists who might find themselves involved in similar cases.

References
References should be numbered in the text as they occur; for example,¹, ¹² or ¹⁻³. A modified Vancouver style of listing references is used. Don’t worry about submitting references in this style; all references will be changed to conform to the Continuum style during the editing process.

Manuscript Review and Revision
The manuscript will be reviewed and edited by the Associate Editor of Ethics. Lengthy case presentations will most likely be shortened. There will also most likely be queries or revision requests regarding the author’s discussion of the ethical issues. For example, the author may be asked to justify certain statements on the basis of more detailed ethical analysis or may be asked to better present a balanced discussion. This process differs from the usual peer-review process of scientific publications, and in some respects, represents discourse between the author and the editor on the ethical issues in order to bring out important points or details.

Core Competencies
The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) has reviewed Continuum: Lifelong Learning in Neurology and has approved this product as part of a comprehensive lifelong learning and self-assessment program, which is mandated by the ABMS as a necessary component of Maintenance of Certification. As part of an effort to maintain
that endorsement, authors are encouraged to address core competencies in each issue whenever possible. Core competencies are as follows:

- Patient care
- Medical knowledge
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Practice-based learning and improvement
- Professionalism
- Systems-based practice


Illustrations
Illustrations are generally not necessary for EPN. Authors who wish to include an illustration should contact the Associate Editor of Ethics in advance.

Permissions
The editorial office will secure and pay for any necessary permissions to use direct quotations, tables, or illustrations that are copyrighted elsewhere, but we ask that you indicate clearly the original sources. Please include a full citation in either the figure legends or on the back of the figure and at the bottom of each table when it is taken from another source, and indicate clearly when you would like us to obtain permissions. If you obtain permissions yourself, please send photocopies of them for our files.

Informed Consent
Continuum adheres to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) standards regarding informed consent as specified in ILE.1. of its Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication (www.icmje.org/index.html). Identifying information, including patients’ names, initials, hospital numbers, or facial features, should not be included in case reports or figures. If this information is essential for scientific purposes, you must submit written informed consent from the patient to the editorial office.

Page Proofs
Authors will be required to review the first page proof and submit edits, if any, to the editorial office.

Manuscript Submission
All components of your manuscript should be submitted to Continuum’s Editorial Manager manuscript submission site at http://cont.edmgr.com/. You will receive an email with your user name and password, but you can also contact the editorial office for this information.
Please send any questions you have about writing for *Continuum* to Andrea Weiss, Executive Editor, at aweiss@aan.com or (612) 928-6134 or Amanda Tourville, Program Manager, at atourville@aan.com or (612) 928-6095.

Thank you for writing for *Continuum*. 