Bioethics

Name

Institution

**Process of Ranking**

In my view, Autonomy does not trump over the other principles, rather it complements them. That being the case, I would rank autonomy as the top principle. It will mean the doctor should respect the decision of the patient. In that case, the patient will be given the freedom to choose the medication or procedure that he or she wants. By giving the patient autonomy, then it will make him or her receptive to the treatment process (Lawrence, 2007). Therefore, the implementation of the other three principles will be smoother. Secondly, it the principle of nonmaleficence. It entails doing no harm. In this case, it will involve doing what is best for the patient, for example, choosing the best medication and best medical procedures. Even so, this is subject to autonomy given the fact that some patient might not be comfortable with some procedures. For instance, those from the Jehovah witness faith do not accept blood transfusions.

Thirdly, it is the principle of beneficence. In this case, it will in entail doing what is best for the patient given the prevailing conditions. In that instance, I will include pursuing different forms of treatment in line with the wishes or autonomy of the patient. Lastly, it is the principle of justice. This will majorly entail treating the patient in a manner that is fair. With the ranking given above, it is evident that without autonomy all of the other principles would not be properly applied. Notably, it would create gaps in the manner that care is availed to the patient. As well, the principle of autonomy allows the patients to be an active participant in their healthcare.

**Biblical Perspective**

With regards to the biblical narrative of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration, the four principles would still be ranked as discussed above. That is because when God created the first human beings, Adam and Eve, he gave them the ability to choose right from wrong. So, in a sense, he gave them autonomy. Therefore, they had the ability to choose what they want in life. The same case applies to a patient, he or should first have the autonomy to choose the kind of medication that aligns with his or her beliefs (Lawrence, 2007). In that way, he or she will have autonomy just like Adam and Eve. In the case that the patient does not have the autonomy, all of the other principles would not be applicable. In short, the healthcare provider would be forcing treatment on a patient. Notably, such conduct is not ethical.

References

Lawrence, D. J. (2007). The Four Principles of Biomedical Ethics: A Foundation for Current Bioethical Debate. Journal of Chiropractic Humanities, 14, 34-40. doi:10.1016/s1556-3499(13)60161-8