

## Advanced Standing MSW Program Case Study #1:

For the following case study, do the following:

Read the following case study thoroughly. Complete all tasks listed in the case study and write a 4-to-5-page paper (does not include reference page or cover sheet) to address outlined aspects of the case study. See deliverables below.

This paper:

- Will include a cover page that includes your name, the program you are applying for and the title of the case study.
- Will be double spaced with 1-inch margins in times new roman or arial
- Utilize at least 3 academic references following the instructions below, citing correctly
- Include at least one in-text citation, using appropriate formatting. This citation may be taken from one of the 3 academic references.
- Use headings and subheadings as appropriate
- Be clearly written using a professional style without grammatical errors
- Reflect your original thoughts, ideas and writing.
- Be written in total by you. No part of this original paper should have been used for another assignment, by written by any other person or by artificial intelligence.

**Your writing will be evaluated based on the following criteria:**

- **Following Instructions:** Ensure that you adhere to the guidelines provided.
- **Thoroughness and Organization:** Provide comprehensive and well-structured responses.
- **Evidence of Critical Thinking and Analysis:** Show your ability to think critically and analyze information effectively.
- **Grammar and Usage:** Ensure your writing is free from grammatical and usage errors.

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Case Study: Mrs. Hana Alavi

Navigating Cultural Competence and Ethical Practice in Healthcare Advocacy

### **Background:**

You are a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) practitioner at a community health clinic serving a diverse population, including many immigrants and refugees. Your role is to

provide case management and advocacy for clients navigating the healthcare system. One of your clients, Mrs. Hana Alavi, is a 55-year-old woman who recently immigrated to the United States from Iran. She speaks limited English and relies heavily on her adult daughter, Sara, for communication and decision-making.

Mrs. Alavi has been diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer, and her oncologist recommends a lumpectomy followed by radiation therapy. However, during a recent meeting with the healthcare team, Sara expressed concerns that her mother is hesitant to proceed with treatment due to religious and cultural beliefs about bodily integrity and medical intervention. Mrs. Alavi has also indicated that she wants to explore traditional healing methods used in her home country before making any decisions.

Sara is frustrated, as she believes that pursuing medical treatment is in her mother's best interest and wants the healthcare team to convince Mrs. Alavi to proceed with the recommended care. The medical team is also concerned about delaying treatment and has asked you to help facilitate communication and ensure that Mrs. Alavi fully understands the potential consequences of refusing treatment. Mrs. Alavi, meanwhile, seems overwhelmed and has not made a clear decision.

As the social worker, you are tasked with advocating for Mrs. Alavi's wishes while ensuring that she has access to accurate information about her healthcare options. You must also navigate the cultural and ethical complexities of her case, ensuring that her autonomy is respected while balancing the concerns of her family and healthcare providers.

### **Ethical Dilemma:**

You face an ethical dilemma in balancing Mrs. Alavi's right to self-determination with the healthcare team's duty to provide life-saving treatment. While Mrs. Alavi has the right to make decisions about her body, the medical team and her daughter feel strongly that delaying treatment could worsen her condition. The situation is further complicated by language and cultural barriers, which may affect Mrs. Alavi's understanding of her diagnosis and treatment options.

Additionally, you must consider how to navigate the family dynamics. Sara is acting as Mrs. Alavi's primary support and interpreter, but her strong opinions may unintentionally influence her mother's decision. You need to ensure that Mrs. Alavi's voice is heard, while also maintaining a positive working relationship with Sara and the healthcare team.

In your paper, you should provide a critical analysis of the case, focusing on how you would address the ethical dilemma and cultural considerations while ensuring that Mrs. Alavi's voice is central in decision-making. Incorporate evidence from recent academic literature to support your intervention strategy and decision-making process.

**Address all the following points in your paper.**

1. Assessment & Prioritization:
  - How would you assess Mrs. Alavi's understanding of her diagnosis and treatment options given the cultural and language barriers?
  - What steps would you take to ensure that Mrs. Alavi's preferences are prioritized while addressing the concerns of her daughter and the healthcare team?
2. Ethical Decision-Making:
  - Using the NASW Code of Ethics, analyze the ethical dilemma surrounding Mrs. Alavi's right to self-determination and the healthcare team's duty to provide effective care.
  - How would you balance the ethical principle of self-determination with the obligation to ensure that Mrs. Alavi is making an informed decision?
3. Cultural Competence:
  - Research the cultural beliefs and values that might influence Mrs. Alavi's decision-making process. How would you apply culturally sensitive practices in your interactions with Mrs. Alavi and her family?
  - What strategies would you use to navigate the language barrier and ensure clear communication with Mrs. Alavi?
4. Use of Academic Literature:
  - Research current academic literature on cultural competence in healthcare, the role of family dynamics in medical decision-making, and ethical practice in advocating for patient autonomy.
  - Integrate this literature in the 3 sections above to support your approach to working with Mrs. Alavi and navigating the ethical dilemma.