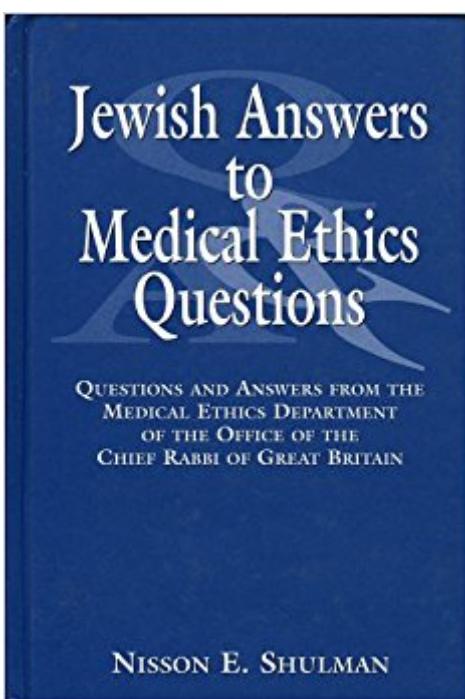


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Jewish Answers To Medical Questions: Questions And Answers From The Medical Ethics Department Of Chief Rabbi Of Great Britain



Synopsis

As head of the department of Medical Ethics for Britain's Chief Rabbi's office, Rabbi Nisson E. Shulman was entrusted with the task of responding to questions on halakhah (Jewish law) and medicine which came from virtually all over the world, and from a wide variety of sources: from government agencies such as the Ministry of Foods and Fisheries, from Medical Foundations and groups such as the Nuffield Foundation, the College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Lingard Fertility Clinic in Australia, from groups with polemic agendas such as the Lynx Organization fighting the fur trade, and from individuals who had questions about the Jewish view on current medical issues. Thus, nurses, physicians, students, and researchers turned to the Chief Rabbi's office for material. Even a group of physicians, theologians, and ethicists, gathered for the express purpose of seeking to forestall medicine's possible degeneration into the kind of science that produced Nazi "medicine," and which met as a "Human Values in Health Care Discussion Group," utilized the Chief Rabbi's office through Rabbi Shulman for some of their deliberations. This book selects a number of questions to which the answers actually encompass medical ethics issues including genetic engineering, new birth techniques, surrogate parenthood, embryo research, marriage, sex selection, saving and preserving life, transplant surgery, scarce resources, care of the critically ill, living will, organ donations and transplants, and even touches upon disaster management. Rabbi Shulman has organized and collected answers to the most frequently asked questions. Many of the questions selected had been asked repeatedly and are therefore to be considered very much on today's agenda. Some of the questions arose because of specific events, such as the discovery of the remains of the Jewish martyrs of York and their reburial, thus making it possible for Jews to visit that city again. Others originated from students coping with planned research projects. Still others w

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This book serves as a valuable introduction for the layman to the rapidly growing field of Jewish medical ethics. In precise and lucid language, Rabbi Shulman describes basic principles in the Jewish tradition as they relate to the practice of medicine. His insights and articulate presentation of Jewish answers to a wide variety of medical ethics questions posed to the Office of Britain's Chief Rabbi make this book a worthwhile addition to the literature of the acknowledged discipline of Jewish medical ethics, which was pioneered by the Chief Rabbi Emeritus, Lord Immanuel Jakobovits. (Fred Rosner, M.D.)

Nisson E. Shulman has served as a rabbi in leading congregations on three continents: New York's Fifth Avenue Synagogue, Sydney, Australia's Central Synagogue, and London's St. John Wood Synagogue, the flagship congregation of the United Synagogue (Orthodox) of Great Britain. He is the author of *Authority and Community*, which recreates the community of Central Europe from where most Ashkenazic Jews are descended. A former editor of the Medical Ethics Yearbook for London's Jew College, Rabbi Shulman currently serves as the Director of the Department of Communal Services, RIETS, Yeshiva University in New York City. He served on the Commission on Medical Ethics of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, New York City, and resides in Manhattan with his wife, Rywka.

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