

Robert Phillips' story

1. What do end-stage renal disease, dialysis, and renal transplantation mean for Robert Phillips and how are these meanings likely to be different for health care professionals?
 - What is the distinction between “disease” and “illness?”
 - How should physicians deal with each of these?
2. Why might African-Americans have to wait longer for renal transplants, and be less likely to receive them overall than whites?
 - For what conditions or procedures have racial/ ethnic disparities been documented?
 - How could this affect a patient's (such as Robert Phillips') attitude toward doctors and the medical system?
 - What could be done to improve health care delivery to racial/ethnic minorities?
3. Discuss the stereotype that Robert Phillips is referring to and its potential effect.
 - How might this stereotype affect a physician's medical decision to refer a patient for a trans-plant?
 - What would it be like to be on the other end of a negative stereotype like this?
4. What are your overall impressions about the issue of patient mistrust of physicians and medicine in general?
5. What are the different ways you might expect patients to act when they are mistrustful?
 - In what ways could mistrust affect the ability of patients to get good health care?
6. How apparent (to the physician) is this mistrust when it is present?