

## case for next issue

**Call for Responses**

The case outlined below will be the basis for the In That Case section for the next issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*. We invite interested readers to provide commentaries for possible publication. Responses should be kept to approximately 500-700 words in length. The editorial board will select the responses to be published in the June 2004

issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*. We also reserve the right to edit contributions, to avoid repetition of points for example. All editorial changes will be cleared with the authors before going to press. Contributions can be sent by email or by posting a copy to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number with your response.

Shane is a professional rugby player who has a contract with a Super 12 team. Shane has been attending the team doctor (Dr Austin) for an acute episode of viral pericarditis in association with a flu-like illness lasting three to four days. This illness occurred in the week Shane's team had a bye. Shane has been subjectively well for the past 10 days, but there are still small detectable changes in his blood and ECGs, indicating that he has not yet fully returned to normal.

Shane wishes to play in the Super 12 semi-final next weekend. Dr Austin talks to Shane and tells him that he should have a little bit more time off until all the tests are completely clear because of the small risk of sudden death from playing sport with this condition. He also tells Shane that team administrators need to be informed. Shane is adamant that he will play and he pleads with Dr Austin not to tell anyone about his illness. Both Shane and Dr Austin have signed a contract with team administrators that include a statement to the effect that health information about players is to be shared with the coach and team management.

Shane is a very important player in the team's success and it is thought that if he plays well in the next two weeks he will get a place in the All Black squad. He has also been offered a contract with an international footwear company that could set him and his family up for life. The company have indicated they want him to get as much play time as possible before they confirm his contract.