I will be given a scenario which has ethical implications. I will need to analyze the scenario and identify who the effected parties are in the scenario and what the possible effects or outcomes, the question is:

 **Ethics of Gene testing: Summative assessment**

**Read the following scenario and analyse the ethical issues. 1.5 pages-2.0 pages)**

Grace is 41 years old. She is a pilot for a small regional airline that runs flights over remote areas in South Australia and the Northern Territory. Grace is a sole parent of two children, aged 7 and 10.She has undergone genetic testing because of a family history of sudden deaths caused by heart attacks. A gene variant that predisposes to this has recently been identified and Grace has been found to have this mutation. On advice from her doctor, Grace has modified her lifestyle, but she still has a significantly higher risk of suffering a major heart attack. She currently has no symptoms of heart disease.

Adapted from “Flying High”. geneCRC “gene Issues Medical Miracles, Ethical dilemmas CD”. 2003

**BASIC PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL ETHICS**

Four basic principles are commonly applied by the medical profession in ethical dilemmas. These can provide a useful framework for analyzing the issues surrounding genetics:

**1. Benefits**

A duty to do more good than harm. (Benefits can be physical, psychological, economic or social)Ask yourself

*Who will benefit from this technology and in what way?*

**2. Minimising harm**

The duty not to cause harm (Harms can also be physical, psychological, economic or social)

Ask yourself:

*Who might be harmed by this technology and how can this be minimised?*

**3. Respect**

Respect for an individual’s right to be their own person and choose their own source of action.

This involves privacy, informed consent and confidentiality (genetic information is sensitive and access should be limited to those authorised to receive it).

Ask yourself:

*Are the individual rights of all individuals considered and respected?*

**4. Fairness**

Fair, equitable and appropriate treatment for all.

Ask yourself:

 *Are the interests of all in the community considered and potential discrimination prevented?*

These four principles can provide a guide as to what is ethically important and a conceptual framework for discussing ethical issues. They do NOT provide hard and fast rules to operate by.

*What is the ethical question?*

*What are the relevant facts?*

*What are the relevant ethical considerations?*

*Who or what will be affected by the outcome?*