

# CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
CURATED BY CBME

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## NEWS & ARTICLES

### Brain damage claim leads to new row over electroshock therapy

By Robie McKie // *The Guardian*

While some uphold the efficacy of electroconvulsive therapy, with the risks of brain damage and the disproportionate administration on women and the elderly, many believe it is no longer ethically or scientifically justified

### A pregnant patient needs emergency care but hospitals are full. This is my experience treating her

By Desmond Wai // *Today*

In the wake of recent controversy, a medical specialist recounts their experience with providing emergency care when resources are limited

### Widower wins right to have baby using embryo created with his late wife

By Hannah Devlin // *The Guardian*

UK High Court rules in favour of widower's rights to use a frozen embryo to start a family through posthumous surrogacy

### Doctors concerned over curbs on outpatient cancer treatment cover

By Salma Khalik // *The Straits Times*

MOH plans to limit use of off-label drugs for cancer treatment to reduce rising costs but doctors believe this will adversely affect many patients in-need and restrict the scope of clinical judgment

### Abortion and bioethics: Principles to guide U.S. abortion debates

By Nancy S Jecker // *The Conversation*

Using Principlism to understand moral debates surrounding abortion, in the context of the overruling of Roe v Wade

### Is abortion legal in China, how common is it and why is it controversial?

By Mimi Lau // *South China Morning Post*

While abortion is still legal in China, national policy is reflecting a trend similar to the US given the population crisis following forced abortion/sterilisation practices and the one-child policy



## PUBLICATIONS

### Screening is not always healthy: an ethical analysis of health screening packages in Singapore

By Sarah Ee Fang Yong, Mee Lian Wong, and Teck Chuan Voo // *BMC Medical Ethics*

Content analysis of websites of 14 health screening package providers reveals several ethical issues including major information gaps, inclusion of non-recommended tests, maldistribution of scarce healthcare resources, lack of appropriate follow-up, etc

### Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust v WV [2022] EWCOP 9 - The Court of Protection: On balancing risks; best interests and kidney transplantation

By Neera Bhatia // *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*

An analysis of the Court's decision to allow kidney transplant and post-operative sedation and ventilation for a person with moderate-to-severe learning disabilities looks at the best interests principle using a multi-disciplinary lens

### A two-center pilot study on the effects of clinical ethics support on coercive measures in psychiatry

By Julia Stoll, Anna Lisa Westermair, Ulrike Kübler, Thomas Reisch, Katja Cattapan, et al. // *BMC Psychiatry*

A pilot study of acute wards in psychiatric hospitals assesses the use of clinical ethics support in assisting healthcare practitioners with determining the best, morally justifiable course of action in situations where formal coercion may be required

### Vaccine mandates for healthcare workers beyond COVID-19

By Alberto Giubilini, Julian Savulescu, Jonathan Pugh, and Dominic Wilkinson // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

The authors argue that given current context and evidence, influenza vaccine mandates may be justified but not those for COVID-19 vaccines

### Is there a role for ethics in addressing healthcare incivility?

By Liz Blackler, Amy E. Scharf, Martin Chin, and Louis P. Voigt // *American Nursing Ethics*

A case for involving CECs and ethics consultants in managing uncivil behaviour from patients and/or families towards healthcare professionals



## BLOG POSTS

### Should parents be able to decline consent for brain death testing in a child?

By Dominic Wilkinson // *Practical Ethics*

The author argues that since there are strong ethical reasons to proceed with testing for brain death, asking for parental consent would be wrong (depending on the jurisdiction). But they must be informed with sensitivity, compassion, and adequate support

### The End of Roe v. Wade Will Be a Nightmare for Disabled Americans

By Liz Bowen // *Hastings Bioethics Forum*

'Conversations about reproductive autonomy and disability are co-opted by anti-abortionists and constrained to fetuses' interests. Disabled persons' needs are ignored

### Should doctors be held to higher moral standards than others?

By Daniel Sokol // *JME Blog*

High standards of professional conduct are based on the trust held by patients and society that doctors are competent and of good character. Any alterations to the standards must consider the consequences for this trust

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