

# CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CURATED BY CBME

November 2022, Issue 12

## NEWS & ARTICLES

### **Rise of 'compassion fatigue' risks pushing healthcare workers away from palliative care**

*By Fabian Koh // Channel News Asia*

Compassion fatigue in the palliative care sector is leading to increasing rates of emotional and physical burnout, manpower shortage and decreasing motivation.

### **Florida Restricts Doctors From Providing Gender Treatments to Minors**

*By Azeen Ghorayshi // The New York Times*

A new standard of care has been adopted by Florida's Board of Medicine, prohibiting doctors from prescribing puberty blockers and other related treatments until the patients turn 18.

### **Farrer Park Hospital fined \$58k over leaked patient data, medical records**

*By Osmond Chia // The Straits Times*

The Personal Data Protection Commission has imposed penalties for illegal disclosure of confidential personal data and medical records of thousands of individuals due to lax security protocols.

### **Severely ill refusing sicknotes as they cannot afford time off, says GPs' head**

*By Dennis Campbell // The Guardian*

Increasing biopsychosocial vulnerabilities of patients facing poverty, abuse, etc. is triggering moral distress in GPs who are unable to do more to help.

### **Singapore hospitals seeing high number of patients who do not need emergency care: Healthcare groups**

*By (No author) // Channel News Asia*

Hospital triage protocols have surged wait times in emergency department, particularly for those who are lower ranked on the lists. Resource prioritisation continues to be a difficult process even with the endemisation of COVID-19.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **COVID-19, the Immune System, and Organic Disability**

*By Miguel Angel Ramiro Avilés and Íñigo De Miguel Beriain // Asian Bioethics Review*

For those who remain involuntarily vulnerable to COVID-19, the authors suggest that responses should be informed by the social model of disability.

### **When (if ever) may doctors discuss religion with their patients?**

*By Lauren Notini and Justin Oakley // Bioethics*

Religious discussions within the doctor-patient relationship may only be morally acceptable to the extent of identifying patient values and referrals to leaders/figures for further support.

### **Needs to address clinicians' moral distress in treating unvaccinated COVID-19 patients**

*By Robert Klitzman // BMC Medical Ethics*

The authors argue that voluntarily unvaccinated COVID-19 patients should continue to receive care but multi-level strategies and protocols must be implemented.

### **The morally disruptive future of reprogenetic enhancement technologies**

*By Jon Rueda, Jonathan Pugh, and Julian Savulescu // Trends in Biotechnology*

Discusses ethical debates around emerging reprogenetic biotechnologies and also the potential for disruption of future morality in this regard.

### **What Covid has taught the world about ethics**

*By Ezekiel J. Emanuel, Ross E.G. Upshur, and Maxwell J. Smith // The New England Journal of Medicine*

The authors argue that ethicists, ethics, and ethical principles and values must absolutely be a part of policy and decision-making processes pertaining to public health emergencies.

## BLOG POSTS

### **Should Ethicists be at the table in public health policy deliberations?**

*By Frank G. Miller // Hastings Center Forum*

Miller points out problems with the arguments in Emanuel et al's article above mentioned, and suggests ethicists can contribute to these processes without being on the table.

### **Googling Patients: It's not about privacy, it's about respect**

*By Emily Beer // Voices in Bioethics*

The morality of Patient-Targeted Googling does not relate to confidential or protected information, but to an inherent violation of the trust within the patient-professional relationship.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **CENTRES Clinical Ethics Conference 2023**

Theme: Ethical Challenges in Home & Community Care Settings

Date: 6th & 7th February 2023

Venue: Kent Ridge Guild House

### **17th Annual International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation 2023**

Theme: Clinical Ethics: Consultation and/or Education?

Dates: 7-10th June 2023

Venue: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome

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