

CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CURATED BY CBME

Jul 2023, Issue 20



NEWS & ARTICLES

Commentary: Should the AI doctor see you now?

By John Thornhill // *Today Online*

As Artificial Intelligence continues to penetrate several aspects of healthcare delivery, the author calls for exercising caution in this enthusiastic pursuit.

Revealed: drug firms funding UK patient groups that lobby for NHS approval of medicines

By Shanti Das and Jon Ungoed-Thomas // *The Guardian*

Investigations have identified financial links between patient groups lobbying for approval of drugs and pharmaceutical companies making them, in nearly 140 drug appraisals conducted by NICE committees, raising concerns about transparency and bias in the process.

More in Singapore choosing to make advance care plans

By Zhaki Abdullah // *The Straits Times*

Advance care plans are being drawn up in Singapore at an increasing rate. But that does not mean the process of making one is without challenges like disagreements with family members.

'It's naive to think this is in the best interests of the NHS.' How Big Pharma's millions are influencing healthcare

By Jon Ungoed-Thomas, Shanti Das and Michael Goodier // *The Guardian*

Partnerships between the pharmaceutical industry in England and the NHS as well as private players have sparked concerns about conflicts of interest and undue influence driving drug sales.

Should terminally ill young people be able to choose voluntary assisted dying? The ACT is considering it

By Katrine Del Villar // *The Conversation*

The Australian Capital Territory is considering a controversial proposal to allow mature minors with terminal illnesses to access voluntarily assisted dying, on similar lines as in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Columbia.



PUBLICATIONS

Should Artificial Intelligence be used to support clinical ethical decision-making? A systematic review of reasons

By Lasse Benzinger, Frank Ursin, Wolf-Tilo Balke, Tim Kacprowski & Sabine Salloch // *BMC Medical Ethics*

Results of a systematic review of forty-four relevant publications indicate reasons including enhanced accuracy of predictions, improved transparency and reliability, reduction of stress on surrogate decision-makers, decreased biases, etc. However, several drawbacks have also been identified.

Understanding the underlying causes of tensions that arise in ICU Care for older patients

By Shahla Siddiqui, Michael Gusmano, Michael Dunn, and George Agich // *The Journal of Clinical Ethics*

A qualitative study employing focus group discussions and interviews with ICU physicians and family members of older ICU patients in a Singaporean teaching hospital reveals tensions around prognostication, expectations in outcomes, and underlying mistrust between families and physicians.

Jennings v Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority [2022] EWHC 1619 (Fam): Confirming the paradigm of inferred consent for posthumous conception

By Alexander Tiseo // *Medical Law Review*

The author dissects Theis J's judgment in Jennings allowing the posthumous use of a partner-created embryo for surrogacy by inferring the consent of the deceased partner from available evidence.

No need for parental involvement in the vaccination choice of adolescents

By Margherita Brusa and Yechiel Michael Barilan // *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*

This paper constructs justifications for free access to vaccinations that are compatible with adolescents' evolving autonomy in making healthcare decisions.

Capacity assessment during labour and the role of opt-out consent

By Kelsey Mumford // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

The author looks into different methods through which capacity should be determined and next steps in making decisions during an obstetric emergency, as well as the appropriateness of opt-out consent in labour.



BLOG POSTS

The UK Supreme Court just made meaningful patient involvement in medical decision-making more difficult

By Jennifer O'Neill // *JME Blog*

In revisiting *Montgomery v Lanarkshire*, the UKSC's recent judgment in *McCulloch v Forth Valley Health Board* reestablishes the Bolam test of professional judgment as applicable to assessments of whether specific alternative treatments are reasonable and should be disclosed.

From Dr Google to ChatGPT: are the tides turning in how cancer patients access information?

By Ashley Hopkins // *OUPBlog*

Findings of a study of responses from AI tools like ChatGPT and Google to questions by cancer patients affirm the importance of clinicians as the best source of medical advice.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Seminar: Research Infrastructures as Quality Improvement Interventions

Date: 23 August 2023

Venue: Auditorium, Blk MD 11, 10 Medical Drive Singapore 117597 | In-person

CBME Global Ethics Lecture by Prof Peter Singer

Title: Pandemic Ethics: Five Lessons

Date: 24 August 2023

Venue: River Room, Asian Civilisations Museum | In-person

Asian Paediatric Ethics Conference

Date: 2 and 3 October 2023

Venue: NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House | In-person

Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL) Conference 2023 [Abstracts submission open]

Dates: 19-22 November 2023

Venue: Brisbane, Australia

Sign up for our Clinical Ethics mailing list [here](#).