

# CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
CURATED BY CBME

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## NEWS & ARTICLES

### Gen Y Speaks: I was recently hospitalised for the first time. It taught me the importance of empathy and preparedness

By *Alvona Loh Zi Hui // Today*

A medical doctor stresses on the necessity of empathy in caring for and communicating with patients, based on her first-hand experience of being hospitalised.

### COVID-19 vaccine mandates have come and mostly gone in the US – an ethicist explains why their messy rollout matters for trust in public health

By *Rachel Gur Arie // The Conversation*

Fluctuating mandates and decisions surrounding vaccination have resulted in decreased trust in public health institutions, authorities, and researchers.

### Complaints against docs still take years to address, despite moves to speed things up

By *Salma Khalik // The Straits Times*

While recent changes aimed at expediting the process of handling complaints against doctors under the Medical Registration Act have been beneficial, delays continue to plague the process, affecting both doctors and complainants.

### US prisoners who did not consent to ivermectin Covid treatment win payout

By *Erum Salam // The Guardian*

Doctors who administered ivermectin to prisoners in Arkansas without obtaining their informed consent have been found guilty of breaching several ethical obligations.

### The future of healthcare in Singapore looks like a hospital without walls

By *Huang Weiting // Channel News Asia*

To shift care beyond hospitals, the systems must enhance remote monitoring technologies, ensure continuity of care without compromising privacy safeguards in sharing health data, develop new ways of delivering care, optimise care-at-home initiatives, and generally adapt to the population's dynamic healthcare needs.



## PUBLICATIONS

### Implementing and evaluating care and support planning: a qualitative study of health professionals' experiences in public polyclinics in Singapore

By *Vikki A. Entwistle, Sharon McCann, Victor Weng Keong Loh, E Shyong Tai, Wee Hian Tan, and Tong Wei Yew // BMC Primary Care*

23 semi-structured interviews with healthcare professionals and coordinators associated with Care and Support Planning programmes conducted in two Singaporean polyclinics for persons with diabetes (as part of a study of patients' experiences) offer varying insights, interpretations, and tensions surrounding person-centred support for self-management of chronic conditions.

### Opt-out, mandated choice and informed consent

By *Ben Saunders // Bioethics*

The author argues that 'mandated choice' as a purportedly more ethical alternative to opt-out systems of organ donation will also exhibit similar problems with informed consent if public education and awareness are not incorporated as an essential part of the system.

### Ethical aspects of physician decision-making for deprescribing among older adults with dementia

By *Jonathan D. Norton, Chan Zeng, Elizabeth A. Bayliss, Susan M. Shetterly, Nicole Williams et al. // JAMA Network Open*

This study links barriers to deprescribing medications for older adults with dementia and the relevant ethical principles towards better understanding the process of making such decisions.

### The supreme court's decision in McCulloch v Forth Valley health board: Does it condone healthcare injustice?

By *Abeezar I Sarela // Journal of Medical Ethics*

The UKSC's decision in McCulloch v Forth Valley Health Board clarifies the standard for defining reasonable alternative medical treatments, as that dictated in Bolam. But debates on the plurality of applicable standards in healthcare practice persist.

### The ethics of informed consent for infants born to adolescents: A case study from Malaysia

By *Jeffrey Soon-Yit Lee, Benjamin Wei-Liang Ng, and Mohammad Firdaus bin Abdul Aziz // Clinical Ethics*

This paper highlights the distinction between competence and capacity in healthcare decision-making, particularly for infants born to adolescents, and proposes a workflow for obtaining informed consent based on respect for persons, within Malaysia's health law paradigm.



## BLOG POSTS

### My mom's myeloma and the fire-breathing chimaera

By *Kaiulani S Shulman // Hastings Bioethics Forum*

The author describes her mother's experience of receiving CAR T-cell therapy as a fifth-line intervention for multiple myeloma.

### Ethical lapses in pediatrics can lead to unjustified custody loss: The "Take Care of Maya" case is a good time for reflection on laws and practices

By *Anne Zimmerman // Modern Bioethics*

Child Protective Services and mandatory reporters of child abusers like paediatricians wield significant power in deciding the custody and care of children. But the current system presents inherent problems such as inconsistent standards of proof, scope for false or erroneous reports, etc. and is in need of overhaul.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL) Conference 2023

Dates: 19-22 November 2023

Venue: Brisbane, Australia

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