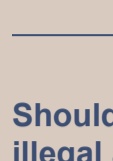


# CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CURATED BY CBME

Jan 2024, Issue 26



## NEWS & ARTICLES

### Should a health professional be disciplined for reporting an illegal abortion?

By Dominic Wilkinson // *The Conversation*

Latest guidance from the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists has clarified that professionals are not under any obligation to report illegal abortions to the police. The primary issue for consideration in such cases is the violation of the patient's confidentiality and subsequent breaches in trust.

### Calls for tech, funding support, legal, ethical guidance as Singapore pushes towards mandatory patient data sharing

By Sherlyn Seah and Fabian Koh // *Channel News Asia*

Guidelines on addressing patient confidentiality and other legal and ethical issues in access and use of patient records are now being drafted, parallel to the proposed Health Information Bill.

### When my doctor couldn't save my pregnancy, he did the next best thing

By Ranjana Srivastava // *The Guardian*

Healthcare professionals can greatly influence how patients deal with bad news, as with the author's own experience after a miscarriage.

### 3 years' suspension for senior GP who inappropriately prescribed sedatives, sleeping pills

By Louisa Tang // *Channel News Asia*

An SMC disciplinary tribunal has held Dr Maninder Singh Shahi guilty of professional misconduct, for inappropriate long-term prescription of benzodiazepines, zolpidem, or zopiclone to seven patients, and failing to maintain sufficient records or refer them to a psychiatrist or other specialist.

### Do pregnant women have a right to urgent medical care? No, according to a US court

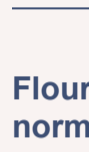
By Moira Donegan // *The Guardian*

Three federal judges in Texas v Beccera have now ruled that there is no right to life-saving medical care through abortions under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labour Act, which requires hospitals receiving federal grants to provide any treatment that might be required to stabilise the condition of an individual undergoing an 'emergency medical condition'.

### IN FOCUS: How the ease of getting prescription drugs from Telegram, multiple doctors can fuel addiction

By Grace Yeoh // *Channel News Asia*

While addiction-related narratives and policy in Singapore are largely focused on illicit substances, addiction to prescription medication (especially when obtained illegally) is just as if not more dangerous.



## PUBLICATIONS

### Flourishing, mental health professionals and the role of normative dialogue

By Hazem Zohny, Julian Savulescu, Gin S. Malhi, and Iliana Singh // *Health Care Analysis*

The authors engage with the concept of patient flourishing in mental healthcare, some challenges associated with providing such care, how patient-professional dynamics may be influenced by conflicting notions of what is 'good' for the patient, and suggest mechanisms to minimise unintended paternalism and patient distrust.

### Why the irremediability requirement is not sufficient to deny psychiatric euthanasia for patients with treatment-resistant depression

By Marcus T L Teo // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

This paper makes a case for permitting psychiatric euthanasia for patients with treatment-resistant depression, contrary to arguments that consider irremediability or a lack of any reasonably available remedies as the 'key requirement for euthanasia'.

### Dying a lonely death: A conceptual and normative analysis

By Zohar Lederman // *Bioethics*

If there is a right against a lonely or 'bad' death, there are corresponding duties to ensure that this right is upheld, including ensuring the presence of family/friends by the deathbed, developing creative solutions for those without contactable families/friends, etc.

### Gender affirming hormone treatment for trans adolescents: A four principles analysis

By Hane Htut Maung // *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*

Using the four principles of biomedical ethics by Beauchamp and Childress, the author argues that enabling access to gender-affirming hormone treatment for trans adolescents who seek it is ethically necessary.

### Wearable devices for long COVID: Prospects, challenges and options

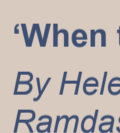
By Hui Yun Chan // *Asian Bioethics Review*

This paper highlights the prospects of wearable devices for persons with long Covid as well as the ethical and regulatory challenges arising thereof, and identifies potential areas for future research.

### The social epistemology of eating disorders: How our gaps in understanding challenge patient care

By Ji-Young Lee // *Bioethics*

Gaps and prejudices in the epistemic basis of eating disorders (EDs), including racialisation, underdiagnosis in men, weight bias, and 'orthorexia nervosa', can considerably shape whether and how care is delivered for patients struggling with EDs



## BLOG POSTS

### 'When the risk of harm is unavoidable...'

By Helen Lynne Turnham, Sarah-Jane Bowen, Sitara Ramdas, Andrew Smith, Dominic Wilkinson, and Emily Harrop. // *JME Blog*

The 'As Low as Reasonably Possible (ALARP)' model of clinical risk management for children in technology-dependent settings may allow doctors to identify, document, and choose to undertake risks that are the 'least worst' in situations where there are no good options.

### Clinical ethics case studies: Balancing a patient's autonomy against misinformation

By Daniel Edward Callies // *Hastings Bioethics Forum*

A 45-year-old patient at the emergency department presenting with Covid pneumonia and severely low oxygen, is also a victim of misinformation due to which she is at significant risk of avoidable death. The ethics team in the case identifies four indicators that show when a patient has decision-making capacity.



## VIDEOS

### CENTRES ELECTIVES - Clinical Ethics Beyond the Basics: Moral Distress

Video lectures by Michael Dunn

In our latest CENTRES initiative, we offer bite-sized video lectures on topics in clinical ethics that are relatively less explored, facilitated by our esteemed guest lecturers. The first module is on Moral Distress, led by A/Prof Michael Dunn from the Centre for Biomedical Ethics.

### CENTRES ELECTIVES - Clinical Ethics Beyond the Basics: Professionals' Rights and Responsibilities

Video lectures by Neeta Satku

In our latest CENTRES initiative, we offer bite-sized video lectures on topics in clinical ethics that are relatively less explored, facilitated by our esteemed guest lecturers. The second module is on Professionals' Rights and Responsibilities, led by Dr Neeta Satku, Adjunct Senior Lecturer from the Centre for Biomedical Ethics.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### "Absolutely Essential": Bioethics and the International Rules-Based Order

Seminar by Prof Jonathan Moreno

Mode: In person at NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House  
Date/ Time: 29 February 2024/ 5.00 to 6.00pm (Networking reception from 6.00 PM onwards)

### Educators' Course in Healthcare Ethics, Law & Professionalism (for Pharmacists)

Save the date. Registration will open in 2024.

Dates: 6, 9, 16 May 2024  
Mode: In-person

### Educators' Course in Healthcare Ethics, Law & Professionalism (for Nurses)

Save the date. Registration will open in 2024.

Dates: 18, 20, 27 June 2024  
Mode: In-person

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