

CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

Feb 2024, Issue 27



NEWS & ARTICLES

Misogyny and racial bias routinely putting patients at risk, warns NHS England safety chief

By Hannah Devlin // The Guardian

Systemic biases are deeply embedded in the healthcare system, as a result of which female and ethnic minority patients continue to be adversely affected.

MPs stress need for better insurance coverage for mental health conditions, regulation of professionals

By Grace Yeoh // Channel News Asia

Parliamentary discussions raise concerns about the state of mental health care in Singapore, including inadequate regulation of professionals, lack of baseline recommendations on standards and quality of care, and the need for better insurance coverage for mental health conditions.

You could lie to a health chatbot – but it might change how you perceive yourself

By Dominic Wilkinson // The conversation

Lying to virtual agents like health chatbots may not always be wrong but can still significantly alter one's character and tendency to be honest in the future.

Alabama supreme court rules frozen embryos are ‘children’

By Adria R Walker // The Guardian

Two wrongful death suits were allowed by the Alabama Supreme Court against a mobile fertility clinic where frozen embryos were accidentally destroyed. The Court ruled that frozen embryos are 'extrauterine children', which is slated to have implications for several stakeholders involved in in-vitro fertilisation processes.

Restrictions on patients’ bills at not-for-profit private acute hospitals to avoid high costs

By Zhaki Abdullah // The Straits Times

Not-for-profit private acute hospitals in Singapore like Mount Alvernia Hospital are set to be singularly licensed under the Healthcare Services Act using a new model. Licensees under this model will be subject to stringent governance on matters including increased oversight of doctors' clinical practices, restrictions on patients' bills to reduce costs, etc.

PUBLICATIONS

Perceptions of Singaporeans towards informed consent: a cross-sectional survey

By Mehek Gupta, Sudharshan Madhavan, Felicia Siok Ying Teo, Keem Jee Low, and Vishal G Shelat // Singapore Medical Journal

A cross-sectional survey of healthy visitors at Tan Tock Seng Hospital's general surgery outpatient clinics indicated that Singaporeans' perceptions regarding informed consent are influenced by a range of sociodemographic factors including age, education levels, etc.

Consent to testing for brain death

By Barry Lyons and Mary Donnelly // Journal of Medical Ethics

The authors argue against recent legal position in Canada that family consent is not required for "Death Determination by Neurologic Criteria" (DNC) testing.

Multi-professional perspectives to reduce moral distress: A qualitative investigation

By Sophia Fantus, Rebecca Cole, Timothy J Usset, and Lataya E Hawkins // Nursing Ethics

This study explores multifactorial and multilevel strategies to reduce moral distress amongst healthcare professionals, based on semi-structured interviews with social workers, chaplains, and patient liaisons.

A Personalized Patient Preference Predictor for Substituted Judgments in Healthcare: Technically Feasible and Ethically Desirable

By Brian D Earp, Sebastian Porsdam Mann, Jemima Allen, Sabine Salloch, Vynn Suren, et al. // American Journal of Bioethics

The authors propose the 'Personalised Patient Preference Predictor' based on fine-tuned large language models using person-specific data as an alternative to more generalised Patient Preference Predictor algorithms, that can allay autonomy-based concerns around use of AI and machine learning in making substituted healthcare decisions.

The role of bioethics services in paediatric intensive care units: a qualitative descriptive study

By Denise Alexander, Mary Quirke, Jo Greene, Lorna Cassidy, Carol Hilliard and Maria Brenner // BMC Medical Ethics

This qualitative descriptive study addresses the importance and nature of bioethical services, particularly in cases of children needing intensive care, based on 33 interviews with formal and informal members of bioethics groups and/or clinicians with significant experience handling complex bioethical issues.

BLOG POSTS

It's Time to Change the Conversation About MAiD

By Thomas B Strouse // Hasting Bioethics Forum

Slippery slopes and potential for abuse of persons from disadvantaged communities no longer seem to constitute adequate arguments against the legalisation of physician assistance in dying.

Trumping rights?

By Ezio Di Nucci // JME Blog

Whose rights matter more? A pregnant woman's right to bodily autonomy or the unborn child's right to life?

VIDEOS

CENTRES ELECTIVES - Clinical Ethics Beyond the Basics: Reporting Requirements

Video lectures by Peter Loke

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 third module is on Reporting Requirements, led by Dr Peter Loke, Academic Associate with the Centre for Biomedical Ethics.

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

Video lectures by Sumytra Menon

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 fourth module is on Professionals' Rights and Responsibilities, led by Dr Sumytra Menon, Deputy Director at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Workshop on The Ethics of Human Challenge Studies

Mode: In person at Clinical Sciences Building

Date & Time: 8 April 2024 | 9.00 to 1.00pm

AI Ethics: Beyond the Species Boundary

By Prof Peter Singer

Mode: In-person at Kent Ridge Guild House

Dates: 9 April 2024 | 5.00 to 6.30pm

Courses on The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Register Now

Dates & Time & Mode: From Apr 2024 - Watch pre-recorded talks anytime | In May & June 2024 - 'Live' Online sessions

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

Register Now.

Dates: 6, 9, 16 May 2024

Mode: In-person

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

Register Now.

Dates: 18, 20, 27 June 2024

Mode: In-person

Intensive Course on Negotiating Success

Dates: 23 & 24 May 2024

Mode: In-person at NUS (Bukit Timah Campus)

PDPA Compliance for HR Professionals

Dates: 28 June 2024

Mode: In-person at NUS (Bukit Timah Campus)