

# CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
CURATED BY CBME

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## NEWS & ARTICLES

### Doctors, patients must see and hear each other during teleconsults; MOH studying potential lapses

By Lee Li Ying and Elise Wong // *The Straits Times*

A comparison of consultations for weight loss through different telehealth platforms in Singapore reveals instances of short consultation times, failure to verify details necessary for prescribing weight-loss drugs, and even camera being turned off by the professionals in some cases, in contravention of the rules.

### Can you get an MC and medication from a vending machine?

By Ang Hwee Min // *Channel News Asia*

In addition to offering consultations and dispensing medication, an unmanned kiosk can now facilitate issuance of MCs but it's not as easy as it sounds.

### MOH warns British teleconsultation service to stop providing puberty blockers to S'pore users

By Judith Tan // *The Straits Times*

GenderGP, an online service focusing on transgender health, has been issued a stern warning by MOH to stop unlicensed provision of medical services from overseas through medical practitioners who are not registered in Singapore.

### If AI can provide a better diagnosis than a doctor, what's the prognosis for medics?

By John Naughton // *The Guardian*

Results of a recent study in the US reveal that ChatGPT outperformed doctors in diagnostic capabilities, and suggest that doctors are less inclined to change their diagnosis even if an LLM offered a better one, indicating serious existential concerns for the human professionals.

### Death with dignity: The people helping terminally ill patients to find peace and leave with no regrets

By Vanessa Lim // *Channel News Asia*

Palliative care for terminally ill patients requires much more than just making them as comfortable as possible.

### Ads for prescription-only medicines, such as weight-loss drugs, prohibited in all forms of media: MOH

By Lee Li Ying // *The Straits Times*

Advertisements for weight-loss drugs (which are prescription-only in Singapore) not only run the risk of violating regulations, but can also potentially facilitate inappropriate consumption and cause harms to people who do not need them.

### MaNaDr clinic's licence revoked, findings uncover 'entrenched culture of disregard' for standards

By Lee Li Ying // *The Straits Times*

MaNaDr clinic, which provides outpatient medical services and teleconsultations, has had its licence revoked by the Ministry of Health in Singapore due to an "entrenched culture of disregard" for ethical and clinical standards. Investigations revealed numerous short teleconsultations, indicating inadequate medical oversight.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Polygenic risk scores and embryonic screening: considerations for regulation

By Casey M Haining, Julian Savulescu, Louise Keogh, and G Owen Schaefer // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

The authors identify the main ethical considerations and current regulatory approaches to the use of polygenic risk scores for embryonic selection, and suggest considerations for future regulation on the matter.

### Alterations in care for children with special healthcare needs during the early COVID-19 pandemic: ethical and policy considerations

By Jeff Jones, Sapfo Lignou, Yoram Unguru, Mark Sheehan, Michael Dunn, et al. // *Monash Bioethics Review*

The authors engage in a comparative review of literature on alterations in various aspects of care for children with special health needs during the early stages of the pandemic in both the UK and the US, investigate the ethical and policy considerations thereof, and provide recommendations for future responses.

### Should newborn genetic testing for autism be introduced?

By Ramkumar Aishworiya, Hui-Lin Chin, and Julian Savulescu // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

The potential benefits of newborn genetic screening for autism are largely outweighed by the potential harms and limitations. A middle-ground solution could be to facilitate genetic testing for all children following a diagnosis of autism, which could be through a range of options including financial subsidies, improving access, etc.

### Journeying with the dying—lessons from palliative care physicians

By Lalit Kumar Radha Krishna, Nur Amira Binte Abdul Hamid, Nicole-Ann Lim, Chong Yao Ho and Halah Ibrahim // *Asian Bioethics Review*

In this study, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 13 palliative care physicians in Singapore to map and theorise how sensemaking of their experiences providing end-of-life care influences how these physicians think, feel, and act as professionals.

### Ethics round table: choice and autonomy in obstetrics

By Dominic Wilkinson, Safoora Teli, Claire Litchfield, Anna Madeley, Brenda Kelly, et al. // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

This clinical ethics round table presents perspectives on two hypothetical cases in obstetrics and related questions pertaining to choices and autonomy, from service users, midwives, obstetricians, philosophers, and ethicists.

### Unlocking the promise of UK health data: considering the case for a charitable GP data trust

By Caroline A B Redhead, Catherine Bowden, John Ainsworth, Nigel Burns, James Cunningham, et al. // *Medical Law Review*

The authors argue in favour of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation as a model for a GP Data Trust, based on findings from a pilot study which identified concerns of a significant number of patients who had chosen to opt-out of a system to collect and use NHS GP data for research and service planning that deemed their consent for those purposes.

## BLOG POSTS

### Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill: Many challenges ahead

By Illaria Bertini // *JME Blog*

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has been published in the UK - while stringent in various aspects, there are several inescapable uncertainties and flaws that must be addressed before it can be passed.

### Ethical considerations for using AI to predict suicide risk

By Faith Wershba // *Hastings Bioethics Forum*

While AI systems could be used in clinical practice to aid suicide prevention efforts if they are found to increase accuracy in risk prediction, ethical considerations including disclosure to patients, consent for use, and data management persist.

## PODCASTS

### Precision Medicine

By Associate Professor Saumya Shekhar Jamuar // *Hosts: James Lim and Sinead Prince // CBmE&U*

In Episode #8, Associate Professor Saumya (Senior Consultant in the Genetics Service at KK Women's and Children's Hospital & Director of the SingHealth Duke-NUS Institute of Precision Medicine) answers questions about what precision medicine is, whether you should use smart watches to track your health, sharing genomics data in Chinese New Year, Saumya's favourite gene (hint, not boot leg), and an exciting carrier screening test funded by Temasek Foundation, designed to help couples make informed choices in family planning.

## VIDEO

### 2nd Asian Paediatric Ethics Conference

*Ethical Imperatives in Child Health*

The recordings from the 2nd Asian Paediatric Ethics Conference are now available. This event featured esteemed speakers such as Prof. John Massie from University of Melbourne and Prof. Dominic Wilkinson from the University of Oxford, who delivered opening and closing keynote lectures. The conference included engaging plenary sessions and panel discussions with notable experts like Prof. Daniel Tsai from National Taiwan University and Prof. Erwin Khoo from IMU University.

### Workshop on Ethical and Legal Challenges in Surgical Innovation

*Frameworks for Responsible Practice*

The recordings from the workshop on Ethical and Legal Challenges in Surgical Innovation are now available. The workshop addresses the ethical and legal challenges in surgical innovation, featuring talks by Prof. Richard Huxtable from University of Bristol on "Conceptualising, Evaluating, and Regulating Surgical Innovation" and Dr. Naomi Holbeach from Mercy Hospital for Women in Melbourne on "Confidence-based Surgical Innovation: A Framework for Responsible Surgical Innovation".

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### The International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation (ICCEC) 2025

Register now.

Mode: In-person

Date: 4 - 7 June 2025

Location: Lausanne – Switzerland

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