

CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

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NEWS & ARTICLES

Singapore's Health Information Bill (HIB) now passed

- All healthcare service providers must contribute and share patients' key health information
By Yap Wei Qiang // The Straits Times
The new HIB requires that all healthcare providers contribute patients' key health information to the National Electronic Health Record (NEHR), reframing health data-sharing as a collective ethical and legal duty towards achieving the goal of 'One Patient, One Health Summary, One Care Journey'.

- Extra safeguards for more sensitive medical info like mental health conditions: MOH
By Yap Wei Qiang // The Straits Times

The HIB carves out enhanced protections for sensitive health information such as specified mental health conditions, sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse, and domestic abuse to address risks of unfair treatment and concerns around confidentiality.

- Patients must be notified, give consent for their health information to be shared with insurers
By Yap Wei Qiang // The Straits Times

Following the passage of the HIB, MOH has issued circulars reminding providers that unauthorised NEHR access for excluded purposes such as insurance matters would amount to an offence. Patients' explicit consent would be required before their health information is sent to private insurers, and this information must be in the form of separate memos or reports rather than raw data from the NEHR.

Despite Singapore's AI push, some doctors say cost and access keep the technology out of reach

By Natasha Ganesan // Channel News Asia

Singapore's AI ambitions risk deepening inequities in care provision, as uneven access and high costs expose the gaps between AI uptake by public healthcare institutions and independent GP clinics.

National genetic testing programme results can't be used for insurance underwriting: Ong Ye Kung

By Yap Wei Qiang // The Straits Times

By barring insurers from accessing or using patients' genetic information, Singapore draws a clear ethical line against genetic discrimination, prioritising public trust and participation in national testing programmes over actuarial risk calculation.

How the 'confident authority' of Google AI Overviews is putting public health at risk

By Andrew Gregory // The Guardian

Google's AI summaries are blurring the line between conversational information and medical advice while investigations reveal serious risks of harm from reliance on potentially false and misleading information.

Should AI be allowed to resurrect the dead?

By James Muldoon // The Straits Times

AI "resurrections" of the deceased such as deathbots or griefbots raise difficult ethical questions about obtaining consent after death, the commodification of memory, psychological risks, and whether "digital immortality" violates the dignity of the dead.

PUBLICATIONS

Autonomy under pressure: a scoping review of social egg freezing in the bottom quintile of the gender gap index

By Shizuko Takahashi, Zakiyya Muhyideen Abdullah, Mathavi Senguttuvan, Henry Dobson, and Mohammed Ghaly // BMC Medical Ethics

This scoping review examines how social egg freezing, often framed as empowering, may in low gender-equality contexts entrench structural, cultural, and legal constraints that render reproductive "choice" illusory rather than genuinely autonomous.

In vitro fertilisation mix-ups and contested parenthood

By Sinead Prince, Andrew John McGee, Hilary Bowman-Smart, and Julian Savulescu // Journal of Medical Ethics

In cases involving IVF mix-ups and parenthood being contested, the authors argue against current presumptions in favour of genetic relatedness, recognising other social, moral, or legal claims of the gestational carriers in determining the best interests of the child.

Standardizing Reporting of Pediatric Assent in Clinical Trials

Shizuko Takahashi, Jerry Merikoff // Pediatrics 2026

This paper argues that inconsistent and sparse reporting of pediatric assent in clinical trials undermines transparency and ethical accountability, calling for standardized minimal reporting requirements to ensure children's voices are properly included.

Who is a man and who is a woman? Implications of the UK Supreme Court decision

By Shalom Chalson, Brian D Earp, and Julian Savulescu // Journal of Medical Ethics

The authors analyse the impact of the UK Supreme Court's ruling on the Equality Act, interpreting the terms of 'man', 'woman', and 'sex', and consider how these socially significant terms should be interpreted in the legal context.

Autonomy, oppression and genetic enhancements

By Sinead Prince // JME Practical Bioethics

Drawing on relevant feminist scholarship, the author argues that choices surrounding genetic enhancement, made within oppressive social structures cannot be presumed autonomous, challenging narratives that equate enhancement with empowerment.

The ethics of Wegovy for children: the argument from too many unknowns

By Nanette Ryan and Julian Savulescu // Monash Bioethics Review

This paper dives into the risks, side effects, and uncertainty around long-term implications of prescribing risks, side effects, and uncertainty around long-term uncertainty that such uncertainty alone should not preclude their use in paediatric care.

CASES FROM SINGAPORE

Parvathy d/o Raju v National University Hospital (S) Pte Ltd [2026] SGHC 7

The High Court dismissed the Plaintiff's claim in this medical negligence suit and Claimant awarded substantial legal costs to be paid to the Defendants by the Claimant, reinforcing the high evidentiary bar and standards of party conduct in such claims.

BLOG POSTS

Clinical Ethics Case Study: Should a DNR Be Honored for Patient with Suicidal Thoughts?

By Lindsay Semler and Derrick Pemberton // Hastings Bioethics Forum

Consulted ethicists in this case recommended honouring the DNR in the case. Consulted patients had recommended honouring the DNR in the DNR request. But difficult questions persist, warranting more frameworks to guide clinicians in similar situations.

Testing AI in real-world medical ethics

By Daniel Sokol // JME Forum

This post explores challenging situations faced by clinicians in real-life and legal scenarios, highlighting the need for AI models to perform consistently well—anticipating their proactive use in anticipating ethical risks in practice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

18th World Congress of Bioethics

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Mode: In-person in Johannesburg, South Africa

Date: 8th Jul 2026 to 10th Jul 2026

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