

BIOETHICS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME...

Welcome to the monthly Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter provided by the Program in Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Program in Bioethics and Humanities: *Our Mission*

We are committed to helping healthcare professionals explore and understand the increasingly complex ethical questions that have been brought on by advances in medical technology and the health care system. We achieve this through education, research, and service within the Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa Health Care, University of Iowa, and the wider Iowa community.

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The Program](#)

BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH: INFORMED ASSENT AND CODE STATUS DISCUSSIONS

Key References and Resources

- ⇒ American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics. [Opinion 5.5: Medically Ineffective Treatments](#).
- ⇒ Bosslet GT, Pope TM, Rubenfeld GD, et al. An official ATS/AACN/ACCP/ESICS/SCCM policy statement: Responding to requests for potentially inappropriate treatments in intensive care units. [Am J Respir Crit Care Med](#). 2015 Jun 1; 191: 1318-1330.
- ⇒ Curtis JR. The use of informed assent in withholding cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the ICU. [AMA J of Ethics](#). 2012; 14: 545-550.
- ⇒ Curtis JR, Burt RA. Point: The ethics of unilateral "do not resuscitate" orders: The role of "informed assent". [Chest](#). 2007 Sep; 132: 748-751; discussion 755-746.
- ⇒ Curtis JR, Kross EK, Stapleton RD. The importance of addressing advance care planning and decisions about do-not-resuscitate orders during novel coronavirus 2019 (covid-19). [JAMA](#). 2020 May 12; 323: 1771-1772.

“Informed assent may be a more acceptable approach to code status discussions than medical futility and may be useful for patients in whom CPR is exceedingly unlikely to allow a successful return to a quality of life they would find acceptable.”

(Curtis, Kross, & Stapleton)

- ⇒ Kon AA. Informed nondissent rather than informed assent. [Chest](#). 2008 Jan; 133: 320-321; author reply 321.
- ⇒ Lantos JD, Meadow WL. Should the "slow code" be resuscitated? [Am J Bioeth](#). 2011 Nov; 11: 8-12.
- ⇒ Manthous CA. Counterpoint: Is it ethical to order "do not resuscitate" without patient consent? [Chest](#). 2007 Sep; 132: 751-754; discussion 754-755.
- ⇒ Tunzi M, Satin DJ, Day PG. The consent continuum: A new model of consent, assent, and nondissent for primary care. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2021 Mar; 51: 33-40.



Photo Credit: <https://www.verywellhealth.com/brain-death-what-does-it-mean-3157217>

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Carlisle EM, Bagwell CE. Ethical challenges with decisions to withhold or withdraw resuscitation in pediatric surgery. [Semin Pediatr Surg](#). 2021 Oct; 30: 151096.
- ⇒ Chimonas S, Mamoor M, Zimbalist SA, et al. Mapping conflict of interests: Scoping review. [BMJ](#). 2021 Nov 3; 375: e066576.
- ⇒ El-Sourady M, Martin S. Goals-of-care discussions in acute life-threatening illness: A three-question framework to get your learners started. [J Palliat Med](#). 2021 Sep; 24: 1270-1271.
- ⇒ Friedrich AB, Dempsey KM, Salter EK. The use of suffering in pediatric bioethics and clinical literature: A qualitative content analysis. [Pediatric Ethicscope](#). 2020; 27: 16-27.
- ⇒ Gaurke M, Prusak B, Jeong KY, et al. Life-years & rationing in the covid-19 pandemic: A critical analysis. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2021 Sep; 51: 18-29.
- ⇒ Lynch HF, Caplan A, Furlong P, et al. Helpful lessons and cautionary tales: How should covid-19 drug development and access inform approaches to non-pandemic diseases? [Am J Bioeth](#). 2021 Dec; 21: 4-19.
- ⇒ MacDougall DR. Must consent be informed? Patient rights, state authority, and the moral basis of the physician's duties of disclosure. [Kennedy Inst Ethics J](#). 2021; 31: 247-270.
- ⇒ McMillan J. Futility: A perennial issue for medical ethics. [J Med Ethics](#). 2021 Oct; 47: 649.
- ⇒ Moore B, Nelson RH, Meredyth N, et al. Consistently inconsistent: Does inconsistency really indicate incapacity? [HEC Forum](#). 2021 Oct 6. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Morrison RS, Meier DE, Arnold RM. What's wrong with advance care planning? [JAMA](#). 2021 Oct 8. [Epub ahead of print]

“The assumption that advance care planning (ACP) will result in goal-concordant end-of-life care led to widespread public initiatives promoting its use, physician reimbursement for ACP discussions, and use as a quality measure by CMMS, commercial payers, and others. However, the scientific data do not support this assumption. ACP does not improve end-of-life care, nor does its documentation serve as a reliable and valid quality indicator of an end-of-life discussion.”

(Morrison et al.)

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Nix HP, Weijer C. Uses of equipoise in discussions of the ethics of randomized controlled trials of covid-19 therapies. [BMC Med Ethics](#). 2021 Oct 21; 22: 143.
- ⇒ Rotenstein LS, Sinsky C, Cassel CK. How to measure progress in addressing physician well-being: Beyond burnout. [JAMA](#). 2021 Nov 10. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Ruiz Moral R, Monge Martín D, Garcia de Leonardo C, et al. Medical resilience and morality: A survey study on the opinions and actions of exemplary family physicians. [BMC Fam Pract](#). 2021 Oct 25; 22: 213.
- ⇒ Sarraf-Yazdi S, Teo YN, How AEH, et al. A scoping review of professional identity formation in undergraduate medical education. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2021 Nov; 36: 3511-3521.
- ⇒ Saunkeah B, Beans JA, Peercy MT, et al. Extending research protections to tribal communities. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2021 Oct; 21: 5-12.
- ⇒ Song YK, Mantri S, Lawson JM, et al. Morally injurious experiences and emotions of health care professionals during the covid-19 pandemic before vaccine availability. [JAMA Netw Open](#). 2021 Nov 1; 4: e2136150.
- ⇒ Walker LE, Bellolio MF, Dobler CC, et al. Paths of emergency department care: Development of a decision aid to facilitate shared decision making in goals of care discussions in the acute setting. [MDM Policy Pract](#). 2021 Jul-Dec; 6: 23814683211058082.
- ⇒ Weiss JM, Alzawad Z. The challenges of PICU research: Lessons learned from a minimal-risk study with PICU parents. [J Pediatr Nurs](#). 2021 Oct 26. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Zhang JZ, Nicholls SG, Carroll K, et al. Informed consent in pragmatic trials: Results from a survey of trials published 2014-2019. [J Med Ethics](#). 2021 Nov 15. [Epub ahead of print]



BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Are Covid vaccine mandates ethical? Here's what medical experts think. [CNBC](#), November 24, 2021.
- ⇒ Laugh a little: Medical professionals, engaged in serious business, need to reclaim their humor. [STAT News](#), November 23, 2021.
- ⇒ FDA approves first drug for genetic cause of dwarfism. [STAT News](#), November 19, 2021.
- ⇒ 'The Economist' backs assisted dying. [BioEdge](#), November 13, 2021.
- ⇒ I worry that burnout can't be reversed and has fundamentally changed me as a doctor and a person. [STAT News](#), November 5, 2021.
- ⇒ The American workplace isn't prepared for this much grief. [The Atlantic](#), November, 2, 2021.



BIOETHICS SERVICES AT THE UIHC

ETHICS CONSULT SERVICE

This service is a clinical resource for UI Health Care personnel who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient's care. Consults can be ordered through EPIC or by paging the ethics consultant on call. For more information, [click here](#).



CLINICAL RESEARCH ETHICS SERVICE

We provide free consultation on ethical issues related to research design, tissue banking, genetic research results, informed consent, and working with vulnerable patient populations. In particular, we assist clinical investigators in identifying and addressing the ethical challenges that frequently arise when designing or conducting research with human subjects. These include ethical challenges in sampling design; randomized and placebo-controlled studies; participant recruitment and informed consent; return of individual-level research results; community engagement processes; and more. For more information, [click here](#).