Ethics Consultation
Beyond the Basics
Module 3
Finding the Available Ethics Knowledge Relevant to an Ethics Question
Learning Objectives

• Describe ethics knowledge and how it applies to an ethics consultation.
• Discuss and practice tools and techniques to gather ethics knowledge by using resources available over the Internet.
ASSEMBLE the Relevant Information

Consider the types of information needed

Identify the appropriate sources of information

Gather information systematically from each source

Summarize the information and the ethics question
What Is Ethics Knowledge?

The “best thinking” relevant to the ethics question, which can be gleaned from scholarly publications, professional codes of ethics, law and policy, precedent cases, expert opinion, etc.
With **Every** Ethics Consultation. . .

- Reflect on what you know already.
- Consider whether your knowledge covers all aspects of the ethics question.
- Consider whether there may be sources you haven’t yet investigated.
- Consider whether there may be new thinking on the issue.
What Is the Search Goal?

To find:

• General overview of what’s “out there”
• Comprehensive literature review?
• A few key resources?
• Background on a broad ethics topic?
• Legal standards?
• Your own organization’s policies and regulations
• Professional standards?
Ethics Knowledge Internet Search
Internet Sources

• Search Engines (e.g., Google™, Google™ Scholar, Yahoo!® Ask.com™)
• National Center for Ethics in Health Care
• PubMed
• ETHXWeb
• EthicShare
• AMA PolicyFinder©
Social
- Google+
  Real-life sharing, rethought for the web
- Groups
  Create mailing lists and discussion groups
- Reader
  Get all your blogs and news feeds fast

Blogger
Share your life online with a blog - it's quick, easy and free

Orkut
Meet new people and stay in touch with friends

Specialized Search
- Blog Search
  Find blogs on your favorite topics
- Patent Search
  Search the full text of US Patents
- Finance
  Business info, news and interactive charts
- Alerts
  Get email updates on the topics of your choice

Custom Search
Create a customized search experience for your community

Google Shopping
Search for stuff to buy

Scholar
Search scholarly papers

Trends
Explore past and present search trends

Innovation
- Fusion Tables
  Visualize, combine, host, and share your data tables
- Code
  Developer tools, APIs and resources

Company
- News from Google
- Jobs
- Investor relations
- Contact us

Who we are
Images and B-roll
Life at Google
News and events
The National Center for Ethics in Health Care serves as VA's authoritative resource for addressing the complex ethical issues that arise in patient care, health care management, and research.

We provide information, education, and consultation and oversee nationwide programs and quality improvement projects to help health care practitioners and administrators to understand and apply health care ethics standards.

We also provide information to Veterans, patients, and their families to help them understand ethical issues that relate to their health care experience.
Links to Additional Health Care Ethics Resources

The National Center for Ethics in Health Care has identified additional resources for ethical practices in health care at the following Web sites:

AMA Policy Finder
The American Medical Association maintains a searchable database of AMA policies, as well as opinions interpreting the AMA Code of Medical Ethics.

AMA Virtual Mentor
This MEDLINE-indexed, non-subscription journal explores the ethical issues and challenges that students, residents, and other physicians are likely to confront in their training and daily practice.

CMAJ Bioethics for Clinicians Series
The Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) Bioethics for Clinicians Series publishes original clinical research, analyses and reviews, news, practice updates and editorials.

EPERC
The End of Life/Palliative Resource Center Web site, hosted by the Medical College of Wisconsin, includes fast facts, educational materials, articles, and useful links.
You are now leaving the website of VHAs National Center for Ethics in Health Care.
This link is provided as a courtesy only. VA does not endorse and is not responsible for the content of the linked website. 
VA employees must adhere to the specific policies, laws, and regulations governing the Department of Veterans Affairs.
Legal analyses developed by other entities may not be applicable. VA employees should consult regional counsel or the Office of General Counsel for guidance about law and regulation that may apply to their activities.
Bioethics Information Resources

**NLM® and NIH Electronic Resources**

**PubMed**
Search MEDLINE®/PubMed for journal citations concerning bioethics.

**NLM Catalog**
Search the NLM collection for books, serials, and other materials.

**Genetics Home Reference™**
Provides consumer information about genetic conditions and the genes or chromosomes responsible for those conditions. The site includes a Policy and Ethics section, covering public policy, legislation, and bioethics materials.

**MedlinePlus®**
Provides authoritative consumer health information. Pertinent topics include:

- Advance Directives
- Birth Control
- Birth Defects
- Clinical Trials
- Cloning
- Depression
- End of Life Issues
- Genes and Gene Therapy
- Genetic Counseling
- Genetic Testing
- Health Fraud
- Hospice Care
- Infertility
- Nutritional Support
- Organ Donation
- Organ Transplantation
- Patient Rights
- Patient Safety
- Personal Medical Records
- Prenatal Testing
- Psychotic Disorders
- Schizophrenia
- Stem Cells
- Suicide

**Bioethics Resources on the Web**
NIH Web site on bioethics, including education, research involving human participants and animals, medical and health care ethics, and the implications of applied genetics and biotechnology.

**National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) Resources**
- [NHGRI homepage](#)
- **Policy & Ethics** - Critical issues and legislation surrounding genetic research
- [NHGRI Policy and Legislation Database](#)
Results: 1 to 20 of 168874

1. Implementing a Clinical Ethics Needs Assessment Survey: Results of a Pilot Study (Part 2 of 2).
   Frolic A, Andreychuk S, Seiditz W, Djuric-Paulin A, Flaherty B, Jennings B, Peace D.
   HEC Forum. 2012 Dec 2; [Epub ahead of print].
   PMID: 23212651 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

2. The informal curriculum - General practitioner perceptions of ethics in clinical practice.
   Sturman NJ, Parker M, van Driel ML.
   PMID: 23210125 [PubMed - in process]

3. Ethical aspects of neuromodulation.
   Woopen C.
   PMID: 23206888 [PubMed - in process]

4. Punishing the lemon: the ethics of actuarial fairness.
   Jha S.
   PMID: 23206646 [PubMed - in process]

5. Role of e-learning in teaching health research ethics and good clinical practice in Africa and beyond.
   Chiengi R, Nyika A, Tangwa GB, Noor RA, Ramadhani SW, Bosomprah S, Kilama WL.
   PMID: 23206363 [PubMed - in process]

   Gross ML.
   PMID: 23206362 [PubMed - in process]

7. Intention and foresight—from ethics to law and back again.
   Foster C, Herring J, Melham K, Hope T.
   PMID: 23206361 [PubMed - in process]

   Montomery J.
Health care ethics : critical issues for the 21st century
1. Morrison, Eileen E.; Furlong, Elizabeth.
   NLM ID: 101592795 [Book]

Am I my genes? : confronting fate and family secrets in the age of genetic testing
2. Kitzman, Robert.
   NLM ID: 101583394 [Book]

Boards and wards for USMLE steps 2 & 3
3. Ayala, Carlos, MD.; Spellberg, Brad.; Ayala, Carlos, MD. Boards and wards
   NLM ID: 101577696 [Book]

CRC examination preparation : a concise guide to rehabilitation counseling certification
4. Chan, Fong.
   NLM ID: 101555781 [Book]

Destructive myths in family therapy : how to overcome barriers to communication by seeing and saying : a humanistic perspective
   NLM ID: 101573555 [Book]

Ethical problems and genetics practice
6. Parker, Michael, 1958-.
   NLM ID: 101536120 [Book]

Ethics in global health : research, policy, and practice
7. MacKinnon, Ruth, 1938-.
   NLM ID: 101589222 [Book]

Family practice examination & board review
8. Wiburn, Jason K.; Graber, Mark A. MD.

Journals referenced in the NCBI databases (1)

PubMed search builder

Find related data
Database: Select

Search details

Recent activity
ETHXWeb Basic Search

Journal articles, book chapters, bills, laws, court decisions, reports, books, audiovisuals, and news articles relating to bioethics and professional ethics.

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Boolean Search | Search Tips

Use the plus sign, +, as the wildcard/truncation symbol.

Search Query:  

In:  Keyword anywhere

Full text available online

Publication Type:  All

General Approach:  All

Display per page:  50
Create Email Alerts for Your Searches

Saved Search Alerts
Any search that you run in EthicShare can be turned into a saved search...

Recently Added

ethx
11/15/2011 7:21am by: thaza

natashasellayah1
11/20/2011 8:14am
by: natashasellayah1

ill newborns
11/03/2011 10:56pm
by: lcoats

kef2319

Ethics in the News

11/21/2011
Eylea, a Vision Drug, Wins Long-Sought Approval
New York Times
The federal approval of Eylea came after years of research and a total $1.2 billion in losses.

11/21/2011
Study Finds Foster Children Often Given Antipsychosis Drugs
New York Times
Powerful drugs intended for people with severe mental illness are prescribed for children in foster care at a disturbingly high...

11/20/2011
Democrats Urge Obama to Defend Birth Control Rules
New York Times
Roman Catholic bishops, charities, schools and universities are seeking a broad exemption

Calendar

International Association for Education in Ethics (IAEE)
05/01/2012 (All day)
Pittsburgh, PA
Policy Finder

The AMA develops policy positions on how the health care system should be organized and how it should function. These AMA policies also provide the conceptual foundation and organizational framework for the activities that the Association undertakes to achieve its Core Purpose of promoting the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health.

Access PolicyFinder

Terms and conditions
Disclaimer of warranties and liabilities

Scroll through to read the Terms and Conditions of conducting a PolicyFinder search. If you agree to these terms and conditions, click “Accept” below to continue your search. “Decline” will take you back to the AMA home page.

Before using PolicyFinder, please read the following terms and conditions carefully. Choosing the "I accept the terms of the License Agreement" option on your screen below acknowledges your acceptance of these terms and conditions. If you do not accept the terms of the license agreement, you will not be able to use PolicyFinder. PolicyFinder and its
Choose Version of AMA PolicyFinder

PolicyFinder Online Version

Search AMA PolicyFinder Online

PolicyFinder Stand-alone (Downloadable) Version

Through this page you can also download the stand-alone version of PolicyFinder (A-12 edition) which can be installed and run on an individual PC. The information in the A-12 edition of PolicyFinder is current as of the close of the AMA’s Annual Meeting in June 2012.

Note that the stand-alone version of PolicyFinder is designed to work with the JAVA Runtime Environment. PolicyFinder will not install or function correctly unless the JAVA Runtime Environment is installed on your PC.

Step 1. Download and Install the version of JAVA Runtime Environment that is designed to work with your operating system.

Step 2. Download the A-12 edition of PolicyFinder.
AMA Policy Finder (A-12 Edition)

Search for AMA Policies

- Health and Ethics Policies
- Governance Policies
- Directives of the HOD
- Select ALL

Proceedings of the House of Delegates
Select the link below to view the official proceedings from past meetings. The proceedings are the official record of all actions taken by the House of Delegates and contain complete text of reports and resolutions which are the bases for AMA policy. Meeting proceedings are posted on the Web site as they become available.

HOD Meeting Archives

Note:
The American Medical Association's House of Delegates meets twice a year (every June and November) to conduct the business of the House. The June meetings are referred to as Annual Meetings and are referenced as "A-" followed by the year of the meeting (i.e., -11 means the 2011 Annual Meeting). November meetings are Interim Meetings and are referenced as "I-" followed by the year of the meeting (i.e., I-10 means the 2010 Interim Meeting).
Fast Facts

What's New

# 243 Palliative Care for Patients with Down Syndrome
Down syndrome (DS), or Trisomy 21, is the most common chromosome abnormality among liveborn infants, characterized by dysmorphic features, impaired intellectual ability, various cardiac septal defects, short stature, other anomalies, and reduced life expectancy. This Fast Fact discusses the natural history of DS and issues specific to palliative and end-of-life care for patients with DS.

# 242 Organ Donation after Cardiac Death
Appropriate patients are generally comatose patients between the ages of 0 and 60 for whom a decision has been made to discontinue life-sustaining treatments with the expectation of imminent death.

# 241 Improving Communication When Hearing Loss is Present
Hearing loss can lead to misunderstandings, which in the health care setting can literally have life-or-death implications.

# 240 Levophanol
Levophanol is similar to methadone with longer duration; an agonist at the mu, kappa, and delta opioids receptors, an NMDA antagonist, and a monoamine reuptake inhibitor of norepinephrine and serotonin; relatively high cost; suited for neuropathic pain.

About Fast Facts and Contents

Fast Facts and Contents Discussion
How to Conduct a Search

1. Begin with the ethics question.
2. Choose terms.
   • Pick out several search terms that are specific to the consult topic.
   • Think of synonyms for these terms.
   • Try out different combinations of terms.
   • Consider adding “ethics.”
1. Begin with the ethics question.
2. Choose terms.
3. Review list for relevant items.
   • Quickly review the first 1–2 pages.
   • Read titles and skim excerpts.
   • Notice the source of each item.
   • If the results are not promising, try again with different search terms.
How to Conduct a Search

1. Begin with the ethics question.
2. Choose terms.
3. Review list for relevant items.
4. Drill down on items with promise.
   • Click on the most promising items.
   • Determine if they are worth pursuing.
   • If not, move on.
   • Follow only promising leads/links.
How to Conduct a Search

1. Begin with the ethics question.
2. Choose terms.
3. Review list for relevant items.
4. Drill down on items with promise.
5. Obtain and review relevant abstracts.
   - Try to find full-text articles.
   - Print out or download relevant articles.
   - Review references to look for other leads.
Sample Search
A dying patient’s family requests that the patient’s implanted cardioverter-defibrillator be turned off. The cardiologist refuses, commenting that this would be harmful to his patient—especially since the defibrillator had fired in response to ventricular arrhythmias 2 times over the past 3 months.
The Ethics Question

Given that the family argues that the defibrillator ought to be turned off out of respect for the patient, but the cardiologist maintains that he should not turn off the defibrillator because he would feel directly responsible for the patient’s death, is it ethically justifiable for the cardiologist to refuse to turn off the defibrillator?
Given that the family argues that the defibrillator ought to be turned off out of respect for the patient, but the cardiologist maintains that he should not turn off the defibrillator because he would feel directly responsible for the patient’s death, is it ethically justifiable for the cardiologist to refuse to turn off the defibrillator?
The American Journal of Medicine: Withdrawing Implantable...
Decisions to turn off defibrillators are part of end-of-life decisions that confront patients, families, and care providers with increasing frequency. ...
linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0002934306001574 - Similar pages

CHFpatients.com - ICDs
ICD means Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator. Another name is AICD, for Automatic ICD. ..... then the DNR order does not allow us to turn off the ICD. ...
www.chfpatients.com/implants/icds.htm - 58k - Cached - Similar pages

Turn off ICD near end of life? "Plan ahead" remains key to...
Turn off ICD near end of life? "Plan ahead" remains key to decision, ... The ethics of deactivating implanted cardioverter defibrillators. ...
www.theheart.org/article/592145.do - 30k - Cached - Similar pages

[PDF] Adverse design of defibrillators: Turning off the machine when...
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - View as HTML
Our observations raised the question: how is it possible to accidentally turn off a defibrillator when it is fully charged and ready to defibrillate? ...
www.medu.au.dk/publikationer/adversedesignofdefibrillators-
turningoffthemachinewhentryingtoshock - Similar pages

Defibrillator with automatic turn on, defibrillator storage case...
Furthermore, the AED can be designed to automatically turn off when the operator returns it to the storage location. Representative Image: Defibrillator ...
www.freepatentsonline.com/6662046.html - 76k - Cached - Similar pages

[PDF] February 21, 2007 Dear LIFEPAK defibrillator/monitor & AED Customers:
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - View as HTML
Turn off ICD near end of life? "Plan ahead" remains key to ...

Turn off ICD near end of life? "Plan ahead" remains key to decision, ... The ethics of deactivating implanted cardioverter defibrillators. ...
www.theheart.org/article/592145.do - 30k - Cached - Similar pages

The American Journal of Medicine : Withdrawing Implantable ...
bClinical Ethics Program, MetroHealth Medical Center, Department of ..... Decisions to turn off defibrillators are part of end-of-life decisions that ...
linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0002934306001574 - Similar pages

[PDF] Ethical Analysis of Withdrawal of Pacemaker or Implantable ...
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - View as HTML
turn off the pacemaker. The service declined to comply. initially but was open to withdrawal of pacemaker support. after review by the ethics consultation ...

VM -- Turning Off an Implanted Life-Saving Device, Feb 07 ...
Can you turn off the machine in my chest and let me be?" .... The ethics of deactivating implanted cardioverter defibrillators. Ann Intern Med. ....
virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/2007/02/ccas2-0702.html - 32k - Cached - Similar pages

Management of Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators in End-of ...
Only some patients with ICDs are offered the option to turn off the devices before ... The Ethics of Deactivating Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillators ...
annals.org/cgi/content/summary/141/11/835 - Similar pages

Pallimed: A Hospice & Palliative Medicine Blog: Turning off a ...
The Journal of Vascular Surgery has piece labeled a "surgical ethics challenge" ... Requests to turn off a pacemaker are made specifically to hasten death; ...

Issues in Ethics
Group Activity Instructions
Handouts 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3

1. Assign team responsibilities.
2. Read Case Summary.
3. Discuss and decide on search terms and strategy.
4. Access at least 3 resources on the Internet.
5. Prepare to explain your choice of strategy and how well you thought it worked.
Discussion

• Which strategies did you use?
• Which ones were most productive?
• What did you find?
• Compare your results to the resource list.
• Any useful lessons learned?
• What would you do differently next time?
Takeaways

Finding the available ethics knowledge relevant to an ethics question

• Ethics knowledge: the “best thinking” relevant to the ethics question

• Key sources of ethics knowledge on the Web

• Strategies for searching the Web

• Practice finding the ethics knowledge relevant to particular ethics questions
Questions