

ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 – 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

THE “DIFFICULT PATIENT” RECONCEIVED: AN EXPANDED MORAL MANDATE FOR CLINICAL ETHICS

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Between 15%-60% of patients are considered “difficult” by their treating physicians. Patient psychiatric pathology is the conventional explanation for why patients are deemed “difficult.” But the prevalence of the problem suggests the possibility of a less pathological cause. I argue that the phenomenon can be better explained as responses to problematic interactions related to healthcare delivery. If there are grounds to reconceive the “difficult” patient as reacting to the perception of ill treatment, then there is an ethical obligation to address this perception of harm. Resolution of such conflicts currently lies with the provider and patient. But the ethical stakes place these conflicts into the province of the ethics consult service. As the resource for addressing ethical dilemmas, there is a moral mandate to offer assistance in the resolution of these ethically charged conflicts that is no less pressing than the more familiar terrain of clinical ethics consultation.

Ethics Grand Rounds videos are available a few days after the lecture at:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2152.5/1292>

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Target Audience: Physicians, faculty, fellows, residents, trainees, students, health care professionals. **Educational Objectives:** At the conclusion of this activity, the participant should be able to: 1) Recognize perennial and emerging bioethical problems in clinical practice, research, public health, and health policy arenas. 2) Describe competing/contrasting viewpoints concerning these bioethical problems. 3) Demonstrate increased skills in analyzing and practically handling bioethical problems in the clinical, research, public health, and health policy arenas. **Educational Method:** Lecture and question-and-answer period. **Accreditation:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. **Credit Designation:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center designates this activity for 1 hour(s) in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility. **Conflict of Interest:** All persons in the position to control the content of an education activity are required to disclose all relevant financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 12 months with any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on patients. A primary mechanism to resolve identified conflicts of interest is a content review that is prior to the activity. **Off-Label Uses:** Because this course is meant to educate physicians with what is currently in use and what may be available in the future, there may be “off-label” use discussed in the presentation. Speakers have been requested to inform the audience when off-label use is discussed.

CNE: UT Southwestern Medical Center is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This activity will award one (1) contact hour.