

ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 – Noon-1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom at

<https://utsouthwestern-edu.zoom.us/j/91852622875?pwd=YjVsMi9STUIXZFpUZ012RWZ3b2RNUT09>

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THE DIALYSIS DEFAULT IS INCREASINGLY PROBLEMATIC FOR OLDER PATIENTS WITH KIDNEY FAILURE

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Many older adults with kidney failure and comorbidities may not live any longer with dialysis than without it. However, the de facto default practice is to start dialysis in most patients with progressive stage 5 chronic kidney disease. Medical anthropologists have described two factors contributing to the dialysis default: changing societal expectations resulting in a “biomedicalization of aging” and a “technological imperative” reflected in the difficulty of saying “no” to life-extending interventions, regardless of age, frailty, and complicating, debilitating medical conditions. Commentators have noted that default options are powerful and may be harmful to some patients. They have emphasized that to counter the clinical momentum of default options; it is necessary for clinicians to engage such patients and their families intentionally and explicitly in the process of shared decision-making. This lecture will present the evidence for the dialysis default and a patient-centered approach to respond to it.

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.