

ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 South Campus
D1.602, Noon–1:00, McDermott Plaza Lecture Hall

ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF MEDICARE PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL PHYSICIANS

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In the spring of 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, in response to a court decision and the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, began to publicly disclose the amounts and reasons for Medicare payments to individual physicians. The disclosures have attracted broad interest in the news media and shone a bright light on patterns of physician billing and utilization that were previously hidden from public view. The disclosures, however, have also raised questions about what the data means, how useful they will be to patients, and how the data can best be used to improve the quality and values of medical care. This grand rounds will discuss salient examples from the first year of the new policy that highlight the ethical implications of the public disclosure of physician payment data.

Ethics Grand Rounds Videos are available a few days after the lecture at:

<http://repositories.tdl.org/utswmed-ir/handle/2152.5/1292>

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Target Audience: Physicians, faculty, residents, fellows, 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.