Ethics Center Journal Club Discussion

“Shared decision-making and health-undermining goals”

RRUCLA & SMUCLA
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
12 - 1pm
Via Zoom

Facilitated by:
Allison McCarthy, PhD

Zoom Link: https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/97881031756
Meeting ID # 978 8103 1756
--Thank you!--
**Articles for Discussion**


**About the Course:**

**Lecture:** Shared decision-making is frequently cashed out as a project of joint input from clinicians and patients (or their decision-makers). Simplistically, physicians bring medical expertise and perspective, patients bring their own values or goals, and a process of joint deliberation occurs to arrive at a decision that promotes the patient’s best interest while nevertheless respecting their autonomy. This picture of decision-making, however, can be complicated when patients’ goals involve a willingness to put their own health at risk—for example, adolescent patients desiring to play tackle football despite rapidly mounting evidence of traumatic brain injury. Such scenarios raise the question: does shared decision-making demand that clinicians always operate within the constraints of their patients’ goals, even when achieving these goals would undermine the patient’s health? In this Journal Club, we will use this article as a jumping off point for discussion about whether this picture of shared decision-making fully does justice to the clinician’s role in medical decision-making.

**Speaker:** Allison McCarthy is the Senior Clinical Ethics Fellow at the UCLA Health Ethics Center. She graduated from The Ohio State University in 2018 with a Ph.D in Philosophy, with a dissertation focusing on authority relations in the provider-patient relationship. Her current research covers value-based disagreement between providers and patients, supported decision-making for patients with cognitive disabilities, and the role of providers as advocates for patient health.

**Who should attend:** This discussion is intended for nurses, physicians, clinical social workers and health care professionals at all levels of practice.

**Discussion questions:**

1. Have you encountered a situation in which a patient has asked you to help them achieve goals or priorities that undermine or create risks to their health? How did you handle this situation?

2. In your opinion, should clinicians limit themselves only to giving advice and recommendations compatible with the patient’s outlined goals? Or do clinicians have a responsibility to push for better goals from the standpoint of patient health? What is your reasoning?

This course is offered free of charge. Attendees should contact UCLA Health Ethics Center at (310) 794-6219 if you need special accommodations or have questions or concerns.