



Ethics and Boundary Issues

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Disclosures

“Neither I nor my spouse/partner has a relevant financial relationship with a commercial interest to disclose.”

Ethics: An Overview

- *Ethics is the study of how to make hard choices in the face of conflicting values.*
 - *Elliott Crigger, Director of Ethics Policy, American Medical Association*
- Two core elements:
 - Identifying values
 - Making choices

Approaches to Values

- What defines or is the origin of good or right?
 - Duty – Deontology
 - Relevance: oaths, covenants, pledges
 - Outcomes – Consequentialism
 - Relevance: public health, benefit, effect size
 - Character – How to be
 - Relevance: Moral exemplars, what would X do
 - Principles and principlism – BALANCING
 - Autonomy
 - Beneficence
 - Nonmaleficence
 - Justice

Selected Contemporary Bioethics Lenses

- **Feminine Bioethics and Ethics of Care**
 - Caring in all its dimensions as core consideration
- **Feminist Bioethics – Ending gender-based oppression**
 - Extension to all forms of oppression
 - Gender, sexuality, heteronormativity
 - Disability, vulnerable populations
- **Critical Race Theory**
 - Identify sources of and end race-based oppression and injustice
 - Intersectionality
 - Structural racism
- **Narrative Ethics**
 - Individual and shared stories
 - What is right and what to do must be seen in context

Making Choices

- How do we choose between competing or conflicting values?
 - Balancing
 - Moral residue
 - Resources
 - American Psychiatric Association
 - American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law
 - American Medical Association

Boundaries

- Responsibility of the psychiatrist to maintain boundaries for safe and effective treatment
- Boundary Crossings
- Boundary Violations
- Special Considerations:
 - Treatment vs. Evaluation
 - Telemedicine

Summary

- Clinical and forensic practice can lead to ethical challenges
 - Identify the values at stake
 - Make considered choices
 - Also opportunity to identify and advance opportunities for advancing ethical interests
- Boundaries
 - The responsibility of the psychiatrist
 - Challenges nonetheless arise
 - Resources and Strategies
- Questions?

Selected References

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- Additional references available upon request