



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

Resource List – July 2020

Health Innovations and Promising Practices

Ethical Concerns with Conflicts of Interest in Partnerships and Collaboration within the Military Health System

[US military medical ethics in the War on Terror](#) is an article which reviews the challenges facing the military physician, as their loyalty may be conflicted to either be an officer first or a physician. This brings up the point that military physicians may be best served with a separate code of ethics. The article focuses on how the War on Terror since 11 September 2001 may affect how these issues are addressed. The article reviews the contradictory directives from the former director of the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency and the former Secretary of Defense. The article also delves in to the pros and cons of the Defense Health Board's (DHB) 2015 report on *Ethical Guidelines and Practices for US Military Medical Professionals*.

The DHB created the report on [Ethical Guidelines and Practices for US Military Medical Professionals](#). The Medical Ethics Subcommittee compared current civilian and military healthcare professional practice policies and guidelines. They took in to account the unique positions a military office is in, when they hold a medical provider role as well. The goal in their report was answer two main objectives; produce guidance to military medical professionals to balance their obligations to their patients and their military officer duties, and propose guidelines for the military medical professional to address ethical reservations or disagreements within military operations.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education and, Practice composed guidance on how to manage conflicts of interest (COI), while supporting beneficial collaborations. [Harmonizing the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Process](#) reviews how current COI disclosure processes may be redundant or burdensome. Therefore, the committee recommended a simplification and standardization of the process. In 2010 IOM hosted a meeting with national organization to start the discussion for standardizing COI processes. The goal of establishing working groups was created.

[Ethical, legal, social, and policy issues in the use of genomic technology by the U.S. military](#) is an article that reviews these areas of consideration. The U.S. military has interest in advanced in genomic science to aid in military recruitment, training, specialization, and mission accomplishment. An ethical and legal framework was proposed to provide some guidance for military decision-makers. It also discusses how civilian approaches to address ethical, legal, social and policy issues fall short when it comes to addressing military use of genomic technology. In December 2010 a report written by scientific advisors suggested that the Department of Defense utilize their access to a large, healthy population to engage in longitudinal studies of genotype and phenotype.

The World Health Organization published the [Guidance for Managing Ethical Issues in Infectious Disease Outbreaks](#) in 2016. Bioethics allow for problem solving to occur while keeping people at the center of the discussion. It allows for decision making to occur with moral rationale to take in to consideration during a time of crisis. The guidance was composed by international public health practitioners, non-governmental organizations, and many more entities from a variety of backgrounds.



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References

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