



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

APR 2022 CCSS: Military Children and Youth: Extending Force Protection to our Nation's Most Valuable Assets

S07: Ethics of Vulnerability in Diverse Pediatric Populations: Implications for Clinical Practice

Resource List

The [American Medical Association](#) (2019) is setting a new standard in healthcare provision for the pediatric patient. Medical information must be communicated in a developmentally appropriate way. Developmentally appropriate is simply defined as “the minor patient’s cognitive ability”. This standard seeks to engage the child in the decision-making process and the child’s assent to the proposed medical treatments and other interventions. Search this article as well as past publications related to bioethics for the pediatric patient by returning to this resource on the American Medical Associations website.

New information continues to become available about infrequent but serious COVID-19 complications in children as well as the role they play in the spread of the virus. As leaders in pediatric bioethics, the [Journal of Pediatrics](#) (2021) published “Integrating Public Health Ethics into Shared Decision Making for Children During the Novel Coronavirus Disease-19 Pandemic” to inform parents of the vaccine engineered for children to prevent the spread of the virus. This article informs parents that it is their responsibility along with health care providers to explain to children the risks and benefits of vaccination as a citizen to protect themselves and the community from the spread of harmful viruses.

The [United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner](#) (1989) is regarded as one of two seminal sources of ethical guidance for pediatric healthcare providers. This document recognizes the rights inherent within the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Additionally, this document captures important guidance established in the statutes and relevant instruments created by the various agencies and international organizations concerned with the welfare of children which is, “the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.”

The [Office of Minority Health and Health Equity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (2019) produced several videos that focused on the ethical dilemmas that face healthcare providers who work with the pediatric population. Presentations included in four of the six video series are collaborations with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as well as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Panel members from these reputable federal agencies present their subject matter expertise when facing and working through the moral decision making that occurs with vulnerable populations.



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References

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- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Public Health Ethics Forum. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qY7OeG0czVc>
- Patel, A., Feltman, D.M., & Talati-Paquette, E. (2021). Integrating Public Health Ethics into Shared Decision Making for Children during the Novel Coronavirus Disease-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Pediatrics*, 231, 259-264. doi: 10.1016/j.peds.2020.11.061
- United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. (1989). United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>