Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

JUN 2022 CCSS: Enhancing Primary Care: Refining Proficiencies to Improve Patient Outcomes
S01: Managing Dual Relationships in an Embedded Environment: An Ethical Perspective
Resource List

[Blurred Lines: Ethical Implications of Social Media for Behavior Analysts](#) (2017) is an interesting article that discusses the potential ethical situations that may arise with the use of social media tools. The article reviews the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) guidelines relating to social networking, and discusses strategies to avoid or resolve violations related to online social media use. Due to the benefits of ease of communication, social media platforms allow for quick access and connection with individuals. Although this article is targeting behavioral analysts it reviews the codes of ethics and social media use guidance according to a variety of organizations including the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Counseling Associations, the National Association of Social Workers, and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), to name a few. The guidance from AMA related to the use of social media includes a description of honorable and appropriate behavior that is expected of AMA members. It also warns of the limitations of privacy and confidentiality within the social media environments. The AOTA code of ethics reviews general guidance, with consideration of how to monitor dual relationships and create clear boundaries for interactions.

The article [Counselors and the Military: When Protocol and Ethics Conflict](#) (2014) reviews the concepts of confidentiality, multiple relationships and cultural competency. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) approved professional counselors to join the workforce within the military health system. The potential for conflicts may be unique within military protocol. The authors also provide ethical models to navigate potential dilemmas while working with veterans, with a case study for further analysis. The article starts with a discussion of statistics of mental health services, access and prevalence within the veteran population. Prior to the time of this article the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA expanded services for mental health clinicians. The article notes that the adherence to a set of professional ethics standards is a requirement for credentialing or licensure, however within the military health system there may be discrepancies between military protocol and counselor ethical codes. Further investigation into this dichotomy is discussed in this article.

The Defense Health Board (DHB) published the [Ethical Guidelines and Practices for U.S. Military Medical Professionals](#) in 2015. This summarizes findings and recommendations of the review of the military medical professional practice policies and guidelines. Their analysis focused on the following questions: 1) How can military medical professionals most appropriately balance their obligations to their patients against their obligations as military officers to help commanders maintain military readiness? And 2) How much latitude should military medical professional be given to refuse participation in medical procedures or request excusal from military operations with which they have ethical reservations of disagreements? These questions speak to the above noted dichotomy that can occur within dual relationships, and adherence to licensing/credentialing ethics and military protocol.

[Ethical challenges of integration across primary and secondary care: a qualitative and normative analysis](#) (2019) is an article that explores ethical issues that arise in health care integration. Integration has a general conceptual meaning, however in the context of the article integration is used to refer to the mechanisms by which integration can occur. The goal of integration is to prevent silos and reduce gaps in care. This study focused on integrated care for children where chronic disease management has become increasingly burdensome. The call to integrate specialist domains within a holistic approach has been increasing as well. Pilot studies in integration programs have been emerging in the United Kingdom and this article focuses on ethical challenges that result from these programs.

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References

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