



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

OCT 2022 CCSS: Military Health Care: Innovative Health Care Delivery for a Ready Medical Force

S01: The Dual Roles of Military Psychiatrists: Ethical Considerations of the HIPAA Military Command Exception

Resource List

The [Centre for Military Ethics](#) (2022) has published a list of resources on military medical ethics (MME). Ethics for healthcare professions may contrast with military members who have the ultimate function of applying lethal force against a nation's enemies to achieve political objectives. Military ethics concerns the moral challenges and dilemmas of professional military practice. Military healthcare professionals are, arguably, bound by a more extensive range of laws and ethical principles, both domestic and international, than any other group. Although employed in the armed forces, military healthcare professionals will be accountable to their national healthcare professional regulatory bodies for their ethical practice. This 'dual loyalty' lies at the heart of MME. Resources listed on this webpage include journal articles, academic papers, videos and other media.

Health.mil has a dedicated webpage for [HIPAA Compliance within the MHS](#) (2022). The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) applies to protected health information (PHI). PHI is defined as any information that identifies you, discloses your health or demographics, is maintained by a covered entity or business associate, and is related to your treatment, medical condition or the related payment for that condition. The DHA Privacy and Civil Liberties Office assists the Military Health System (MHS) with complying with HIPAA regulations. Resources for the Military Command Exception are included on this webpage that details when covered entities may disclose the PHI of Armed Forces personnel to Command authorities for authorized activities.

The journal article, [Legal Framework Versus Moral Framework: Military Physicians and Nurses Coping with Practical and Ethical Dilemmas](#) (2019), discusses the misalignment between the legal and moral framework in which deployed healthcare personnel has had to operate complicated ethical decision-making processes. These difficult decisions can create problems ranging from military operational issues to personal trauma and moral injury for the people involved, and ultimately decrease the legitimacy of the armed forces within society. Military physicians and nurses experience a dual loyalty to their professional identities. The moral frameworks of the medical and military professions are not similar and require different kinds of choices and action from its members.



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References

Centre for Military Ethics. (2022). *Centre for Military Ethics: Military Ethics Materials*. Militaryethics.uk.

<https://militaryethics.uk/en/resources/medical/overview>

Health.mil. (2022). *HIPAA Compliance within the MHS*. Military Health System.

<https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Privacy-and-Civil-Liberties/HIPAA-Compliance-within-the-MHS>

Hooft F. B. (2019). Legal framework versus moral framework: Military physicians and nurses coping with practical and ethical dilemmas. *British Medical Journal of Military Health*, 165(4), 279–281.

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