

PITTT



AMSA

Healthcare Ethics

11.17.21

Announcements

- **12/1 Noodle & Company Fundraiser + Nonprofit Hot Chocolate Sale**
- **12/5 Mentor-Mentee Event!!!**
 - Dining Room A (WPU) 12 - 2 pm
 - Gingerbread house decorating competition!
 - Competing in mentor-mentee groups
 - Sign ups limited to ~30 participants (will be sent out in an email)
- Pitt Med Student Mentorship Alliance Program
- **3 research labs currently looking for research assistants**
 - Contact information in weekly email
- **Clinical job opportunity!**
 - Apply here: <https://careers.upmc.com/jobs/7780038-student-worker>
 - Contact lenhartz@upmc.edu with any questions





Today's meeting: Ethics Discussion

1. Split yourselves off into groups
2. We will display questions/scenarios for you all to discuss among yourselves
3. You will have about 10 minutes to thoroughly discuss each question
4. We will regroup and you will have the opportunity to share some of the points your group came up with!

Youth Autonomous Medical Decisions

BMC Pediatrics Study:

- Four components to Medical Decision-Making:
 - Communicating a choice (able to communicate preference of treatment)
 - Understanding (sufficient intelligence and short-term memory to integrate information)
 - Reasoning (weighing risks and benefits)
 - Appreciation (understand relevance of options for personal situation)
- Adolescents in the United States are able to gain legal right from parental control through “emancipated minor” status



Pro:

- Adolescents are developed enough to make these decisions (e.g. if they can drive a car, they should be able to make medical decisions)
- Allows them to make decisions that would be restricted by parental intervention
- Not allowing them to make autonomous medical decisions would take away a fundamental liberty

Con:

- Adolescents have not developed the mental capacity to make their own decisions
- Aside from emancipated youth individuals, parents have the best interest for children in mind
- Since youth have not reached legal age of 18 years old, no rights would be violated if not granted medical autonomy






Question 1:

Should adolescents have the right to make autonomous medical decisions?

Vaping & E-Cigarettes

- The AMA called for a total ban on all vaping products 2 years ago
- More than 2,100 recent cases of lung disease associated with vaping
 - At least 42 deaths
- The cause?
 - Unknown, lack of research on long-term effects
 - Vitamin E acetate, illicit THC-contamination
- Multiple states suing Juul for illegally marketing as safer alternative to smoking & deceptively targeting young people

Opioid Crisis 70,000 deaths per year	
Smoking 480,000 deaths Per year	
Flavored vaping 6 deaths	



Question 2:

Should we ban all e-cigarettes and vaping products?

Google and Health Data

- In 2018, Google launched an effort to buy millions of identified health care records from national health network, Ascension, without informing patients
 - “Project Nightingale”
- Purpose: To make it easier for clinicians to search medical records & eventually move data to Google Cloud AI-software
- Technically legal under HIPAA
 - Healthcare companies are allowed to share patient data with business associates without patient knowledge if it used to improve healthcare functions.
 - Some companies exploit a HIPAA loophole by selling all patient data but just leaving out names (assigning each person a case number instead)

Genetic data in forensics

- 23andMe, Ancestry.com
- Consumer data has been used in legal processes
 - 2010: Used to arrest Grim Sleeper killer
 - **2015: Wrongfully accused Idaho Falls killer**
 - 2018: Used to arrest Golden State Killer after 44 years
 - 2020: Solved a cold case murder from 1980
- Legality
 - “AncestryDNA will never disclose your Data to insurance providers, employers or law enforcement (***unless compelled by valid legal process***).”
 - Idaho Falls case: Ancestry purchased DNA from a local church’s genealogy database; its commercial database was then surveyed by law enforcement
- Commercial genetic databases vs forensic databases
 - Oversampling of minorities in forensic databases
 - Largely white/European in commercial databases





Question 3:

Is it ethical for healthcare information to be disclosed without specific consent?

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