



The *EthicsLab Essentials* provides a core curriculum designed to enrich ethics committee members through a podcast and website format. A podcast format was chosen due to its easy accessibility and learning schedule flexibility for the listener

Episode: COVID-19: The Ethical Landscape

Description:

On March 11, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to the over 118,000 cases of the coronavirus illness in over 110 countries and territories around the world and the sustained risk of further global spread. To discuss some of the ethical issues regarding COVID-19 we are joined by Dr. Ken Iserson and Becket Gremmels. This episode was recorded on Friday March 20, 2020.

Process:

Have your ethics team members listen to this podcast prior to your regular ethics committee meeting. Then, at your meeting facilitate a discussion and application of the episode around the following questions.

Facilitation Questions:

1. What clinical ethics issues are at play in caring for patients with COVID-19? What organizational ethics issues? Which issues span both clinical and organizational spheres? How can our ethics committee address these issues?
2. What does improvised medicine look like during the COVID-19 outbreak? What can we do as an ethics committee or during ethics consults to help clinicians consider parameters for when to use improvised medicine?
3. How can our ethics committees help physicians and staff address the moral distress caused by limited staffing problems due to COVID-19?
4. What can we do to address the limited essential resources faced by our community, like PPE shortages, ventilators, or ECMO machines?
5. What structural or policy changes need to be made to assist in communicating during the crisis? How can our ethics committee facilitate those changes or educate physicians and staff on communicating with patients and families about changes related to the crisis?