



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: End of Life Disparities: The African American Community**

#### **Description:**

Health disparities and health outcomes for African Americans, is egregious... Regarding pain medication, a 2019 published article offered that the pain of African Americans is systematically under-diagnosed and under-treated

#### **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. How have discriminatory policies and cultural attitudes impacted medical care in the African American community? What are some false beliefs about African American patients that practitioners commonly hold regarding spirituality, pain tolerance, and end of life care preferences?
2. How can clinicians change their language to better communicate end of life care options in light of the history of racial discrimination that has barred African American patients from appropriate end of life care?
3. How can our ethics committee facilitate a greater understanding of the diverse perspectives within the African American community about end of life care?
4. What kinds of structural or policy changes could our hospital make to improve care for our African American patients? How can our ethics committee be involved in these changes?