

Clinical Ethics & Decision Making Support

15 March 2023 | Issue 1

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ethics conference



June 7 - 10 2023 in Rome

International Conference on Clinical Ethics & Consultation

[WWW.ICCEC2023.ORG](http://www.iccec2023.org)

CONTACT US:

Referrals

Please contact **Dr Danielle Ko** by phone, email or TEAMS

Education

To request an education session, please email clinicaethics@austin.org.au

LET'S TALK ABOUT OCCUPATIONAL VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION

A/Prof Rosalind McDougall & Dr Danielle Ko

Responding in the moment to an incident of occupational violence is an ethical challenge. While the concept of “zero tolerance” is used widely in policy and public communication, at the bedside clinicians face a more complex professional decision about an appropriate response. In a heightened and fast-moving situation, they are balancing multiple values: the patient’s need for healthcare, the doctor’s own wellbeing, and the safety of others, including other patients as well as colleagues.

Different clinicians may make different judgements about an appropriate response based on their own sense of professionalism, their past experiences and specific vulnerabilities. There is likely to be variation within a team in relation to personal levels of tolerance for patient aggression and violence, particularly when the patient’s capacity is impaired or their need for healthcare is urgent.

Seeing OVA through an ethics lens can prompt discussion about the values at stake and potential differences of perspective within teams, with the aim of creating a shared understanding about how staff safety can best be protected.

In March 2023 Austin Health ran an all staff seminar titled "[Occupational Violence and Aggression - Incident reporting to police - is it worth it?](#)" and in November 2022, "[OVA - what does zero tolerance mean at Austin?](#)", featuring panel discussions of the practical, ethical and professional challenges of responding to incidents of occupational violence and aggression.

Other articles of interest:

[Patient aggression in intensive care: a qualitative study of staff experiences.](#)

[Nursing violent patients: vulnerability and the limits of the duty to provide care.](#)

IN THE NEWS & LITERATURE

Is it ethical to reduce prison sentences in exchange for organ donation? - a reflection on the ethics of a proposed US legislation offering prisoners reduced sentences in exchange for their kidney.

Resolving conflict over 'vaccinated blood' - how should hospitals respond to patients who refuse blood transfusions or medical treatments due to unfounded COVID-19 beliefs?

Quiet quitting undermines human flourishing - this article reviews the new phenomenon most evident in 20 - 30 year olds and highlights what is required in a workplace to ensure avoidance of this increasing issue.

CEADS UNIT STAFF



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2023 CALENDAR

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	13th CEC meeting	CEADS Newsletter	5th 1400-1445 Ethics forum	8th CEC meeting	7-10th ICCEC Conference CEADS Newsletter	12th - 1230-1315 Ethics Forum	14th CEC meeting	Medical Grand Rounds CEADS Newsletter	11th 1400-1445 Ethics forum	13th CEC meeting	CEADS Newsletter

CEC: Clinical Ethics Committee | CEADS: Clinical Ethics and Decision Support | ICCEC: International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation