

CLINICAL ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA & STOLLERY CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS,
MAZANKOWSKI ALBERTA HEART INSTITUTE and
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What's the Harm in Being Right? Managing Risk in Communicating Medical Information

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Dvorkin Centre (2G2.07 WMC) University of Alberta Hospital

Healthcare professionals have two fundamental duties. The first is to develop competent, evidence-based standards of care and to be able to identify and correctly communicate avoidable health risks. The second duty is to advocate for your patients best-interest. This advocacy is usually described as occurring within the context of consent. However, the criteria for consent, capacity, voluntariness, and disclosure, are based on the legal/philosophical fiction of the reasonable/rational person. Clinicians are routinely challenged by patients who make medically poor choices for themselves (and others) and seem immune to correction via fact or expert opinion. In extreme situations, patients might seem to act out of willful ignorance or even spite, going so far as to harm themselves to prove a point. In this talk, I will discuss this phenomenon, examine some of the psychology surrounding such behavior, and suggest methods to successfully advocate in the context of providing competent care.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

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