



The Ethics of Innovation: when is it ethical to do things differently?

Call for Abstracts & Proposals

Innovation in healthcare takes many forms, ranging from new drugs and devices to new ways of delivering services. Innovative treatments can be delivered in a planned, staged and carefully overseen process to reach a whole patient population, or as an ad hoc change to the standard of care to meet the needs of an individual patient.

Whatever form it takes, innovation in healthcare for children and young people has ethical dimensions and can be ethically challenging. Although it is generally regarded as a good thing, innovation doesn't always go well and there can be unintended consequences. In this conference, we consider the ethical challenges of doing things differently.

Some relevant examples include:

- Where to start with innovation- the sickest patients? Or the most robust?
- How should we balance adherence to clinical guidelines with innovation?
- Can consent really be meaningful when evidence for the new treatment is scarce?
- Should parents always be told if their child's treatment is non-standard or goes outside usual practices? (Should the innovation itself be disclosed?)
- How much discretion should clinicians have to tailor treatment based on their own judgement? At what point is research ethics or other oversight required?
- How should we respond when parents propose innovative care?
- Do new drugs and devices have to be equally available to all?
- Is it ethical to innovate by offering *less* intervention?



Expressions of interest

We invite expressions of interest which may take the form of a traditional abstract, or a proposal for a panel discussion or case presentation. Innovative formats are encouraged.

Abstracts & proposals

Abstracts and proposals should be approximately 250 words, list all authors and their affiliations, and indicate the presenting author in bold. Cases should be de-identified but contain sufficient detail to provide for robust discussion. Case discussion may be led by the submitter, or one of the CBC team. Please indicate your preference. Please email abstracts and/or cases as a Word document by Monday 5th June along with any general enquiries to bioethics@rch.org.au.

Any enquiries about suitability of papers and/or cases to: Prof Lynn Gillam, CBC Academic Director: l.gillam@unimelb.edu.au or Jenny O'Neill, CNC Bioethics: jenny.oneill@rch.org.au

<http://www.rch.org.au/bioethics>

Applications close: Monday, 5th June, 2023