

The OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care Responds to the COVID-19 Emergency

During the extraordinary crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center for Ethics is refocusing its talent and resources to respond to the unprecedented needs created by this unfolding emergency.

March 17, 2020: [Caring for Yourself and Caring for Others During a Disaster/Epidemic](#) (25:31), led by Susan Hedlund, LCSW, OSW-C, Director of Patient/Family Support Services at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and Senior Scholar with the Center for Ethics. Susan shares her wisdom and experience from her decades of responding to international disasters. She provides guidance to health care professionals in managing the tremendous and growing stress of the coronavirus pandemic. Her video has already had over 3,000 views.

March 23, 2020: [Healthcare Communication in a Time of Resource Shortage](#) (7:20), led by David Clarke, MD, Assistant Director of the Center for Ethics in Health Care. Dr. Clarke models ways health care professionals can bring greater compassion to conversations with patients and families about new restrictions such as the heart-breaking prohibition on visiting loved ones in the hospital.

March 24, 2020: [Communicating in a Crisis: Skills to Honor the Previously Determined Preferences for Medical Care](#)" (18:55), led by Katie Stowers, DO, the Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education and Associate Director of OHSU Center for Ethics. Katie guides emergency physicians and hospitalists through key questions and compassionate communication strategies to ensure that their patients' wishes for care are honored in this time of pandemic crisis.

March 30, 2020: [POLST and Coronavirus: If you get sick, do your orders match your wishes?](#) (5:42), led by Susan Tolle, MD, the Cornelia Hayes Stevens Endowed Chair in Health Care Ethics. Susan explains why it is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency that POLST orders reflect people's current wishes for care, and how to change POLST orders if their wishes have changed.

April 1, 2020: [POLST Conversations for ED Physicians with a Capable Patient](#) (5:16), led by Katie Stowers, DO. In response to many requests for shorter videos to support over-stretched emergency physicians, Katie created a single shorter video to focus on how to have compassionate conversations with patients who are capable of expressing their wishes for care.

April 1, 2020: [POLST Conversations for ED Physicians with a Surrogate](#) (5:35), led by Katie Stowers, DO. Katie's second short video offers guidelines for how to communicate compassionately with a surrogate (a loving daughter) representing a patient who no longer has capacity to speak about their health care goals and wishes.



April 6, 2020: [A Nation's Grief: Loss in the Time of COVID-19](#) (12:45), led by Susan Hedlund, LCSW, OSW-C, Director of Patient/Family Support Services at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and Senior Scholar with the Center for Ethics. This webinar is less about traditional grief as we know it, but instead a consideration of the collective grief we feel as a nation during this pandemic.

April 13, 2020: [Fear and its Ethical Management in a Time of Pandemic](#) (7:59), led by Lynn A. Jansen, PhD, RN, the Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education. In this video, Dr. Jansen examines the rationality of fear and the ethical considerations around “fear management” in a pandemic.

April 20, 2020: [Moral distress during a time of health care crises: when following the rules doesn't feel right](#) (11:05), led by Dr. Tyler Tate, MD, MA, the Director of Professionalism and Comfort Care in the Center for Ethics in Health Care. In this video, Dr. Tate discusses the emotional pain many health care workers are experiencing as they have to enforce strict visitation policies on families in order to protect both patients, and themselves.

April 27, 2020: [Sharing POLST Policies and Innovations Related to COVID-19](#) (18:53), led by Susan Tolle, MD, the Cornelia Hayes Stevens Endowed Chair in Health Care Ethics, and the Chair of the Oregon POLST Coalition. The Oregon POLST Program developed this video to share some of the valuable innovations in POLST policy, procedure, and education taking place across the state during the COVID-19 pandemic.

May 4, 2020: [Acting ethically in a pandemic: What's the same, and what's different?](#) (12:07), led by Bob Macauley, MD, FAAP, FAAHPM, Cambia Health Foundation Endowed Chair in Pediatric Palliative Care and Senior Scholar at the OHSU Center in Ethics in Health Care. In this presentation, Dr. Macauley explores how in a pandemic, public health takes precedence over individual autonomy, raising the question of how to fairly allocate scarce resources.

May 11, 2020: [COVID-19 and Particularly Vulnerable People: A Patient Advocate Perspective](#) (15:19), led by Melissa Monner, MS, Associate Director of the Center for Ethics in Health Care, and Manager of OHSU Patient Relations. COVID-19 is impacting the lives of everyone worldwide, but there are those who are particularly vulnerable. How can we think about our response ethically and as members of human race?

May 14, 2020: [Virtual Visits: Providing access to POLST during COVID-19](#) (1:40), led by Susan Tolle, MD, the Cornelia Hayes Stevens Endowed Chair in Health Care Ethics, and the Chair of the Oregon POLST Coalition. In less than 2 minutes, this video identifies three ways to overcome logistical barriers to completing POLST forms during virtual visits.

May 18, 2020: [Finding ways to still be there for our dying patients during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (9:48), led by Sara Taub, MD, MBe, Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Palliative Care and General Pediatrics and Senior Scholar with the Center for Ethics in Health Care. This webinar examines how physicians can and must continue to fulfill their responsibilities to their dying patients in the hospital by finding ways to accompany them on their journey at the end of life, and ensuring that they do not die alone.

