

COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCIES

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HEALTH CARE DECISION-MAKING IN THE TIME OF COVID: ETHICS AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

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As the impact of COVID on our most vulnerable clients and populations continues to take its toll, health care workers are increasingly tasked with both making difficult decisions about prioritization of services and who gets access to these services. The legal and ethical onus remains on health care providers to ensure that clients remain significant parties in understanding and accepting or rejecting healthcare services offered through the important process of consent to treatment, and this process is foundational to western health care. We will review how this process needs to be carefully considered and suggest tools we can use to make ethical decisions with our clients, mitigating to the extent we can, the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations and ourselves.

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