

COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCIES

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CONSENT IN THE COMMUNITY: LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT VS. INFORMED CONSENT

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The Champlain Centre for Health Care Ethics at the Ottawa Hospital**

April 9, 2021 | 2:00 - 3:00 pm



Many vulnerable patients in the community are given opportunities to receive life-saving care outside of a hospital or institution. Examples of varying severity levels exist, such as harm reduction opiate programs or vaccine clinics for COVID-19. However, patients who seek out these services may not have the complete capacity required to provide informed consent. In some scenarios, patients simply want to receive the care they know they need, and they will agree to almost anything to achieve their goal. These situations are ethically challenging – providers must decide when to deem someone capable of providing their own informed consent, when to accept an incapable patient's consent because it results in the provision of beneficial treatment, and when to take a step back and address their own moral distress that results. This presentation will provide examples to all three of those questions, and foster a discussion that prioritizes informed consent while advocating for increasing access to health care.

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Recording will be posted on our [Regional Ethics Network Website](#)

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