

Supplement 1: Survey

CONSENT FORM:

Colleagues: Targeting hospital pharmacists

We respectfully seek your assistance and kindly ask you to participate in a research study titled, *Pharmacist Perceptions of Ethical Dilemmas Encountered in Acute Care/Institutional Practice*. You are invited to participate because you are a licensed pharmacist who may be practicing in an acute care/institutional (hospital) setting. This research study is being done as a Doctor of Pharmacy Student Project at the University of Utah College of Pharmacy. The investigators are Katherine Winter, Doctor of Pharmacy Student, Class of 2020, and James Ruble, PharmD, JD, Associate Professor (clinical) College of Pharmacy.

The purpose of this study is to distinguish factors that contribute to a pharmacist's decision-making process when identifying and analyzing ethical dilemmas in acute care/institutional pharmacy practice. More specifically, this study will:

1. describe methods of ethical decision-making used by pharmacists in current practice, with an emphasis on identifying the weight that influencing factors may have on those decisions;
2. identify knowledge and practice gaps, with an intent to promote improvement in clinical practice; and,
3. identify future scholarship and research to better prepare pharmacy professionals for changes in the scope of professional practice.

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to complete a short online survey. The survey includes three sections: demographics, professional practice scenarios, and educational opportunities for ethical knowledge and professional development. It should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete the survey.

A potential response option included in the clinical case scenarios is: *“Uncertain - By selecting this option, the participant is communicating insufficient education/experience in the subject area to make a decision.”* Data collected by this answer choice will be utilized in a gap analysis. The information gathered from the unethical and “uncertain” responses to the clinical case-scenarios will be added to assess the gaps in ethical knowledge of survey participants and their confidence in this domain.

There are minimal risks associated with this study. No identifying information will be collected and responses to the survey will be anonymous. The survey data will be collected through a password-protected online survey (i.e., Qualtrics) account, exported to an encrypted Excel spreadsheet and stored within a secured computer. The surveys and collected data will be deleted once the study has been closed. Access to survey data will be limited to the investigators, and no survey data will be visible to the public.

Your participation in this research endeavor is completely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time by exiting the survey. Choosing not to participate or withdrawing will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. There are no direct benefits for taking part in this study. However, we anticipate information from this study will lead to a greater understanding of ethical decision-making of pharmacists working in a hospital setting. In addition, we hope this survey will identify stakeholder preferences for increasing knowledge and access to educational resources.

If you have any questions about this project or if you have any research related inquiries, you may reach James Ruble, PharmD, JD at 801-581-4514. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, you may contact the University of Utah Institutional Review Board at (801) 581-3655 or by e-mail at irb@hsc.utah.edu.

We appreciate your time and willingness to participate in this survey.

By clicking on the “OK” button below indicates that:

1. You are licensed to practice as a pharmacist.
2. You have read the above consent form.
3. You voluntarily agree to participate.

Please print a copy of this page for your records.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following choices best describes your hospital practice?
 - ☐ Decentralized Acute Care (Patient Care Unit)
 - ☐ Decentralized Intensive Care (including OR)
 - ☐ Decentralized Emergency Department
 - ☐ Centralized (Distribution/IV admixture/Procurement/Order verification)
 - ☐ Mixed Practice (Centralized/Decentralized)
 - ☐ Outpatient Pharmacy (including Discharge Service)
 - ☐ Ambulatory Clinics
 - ☐ Drug Information/Investigational Drug Studies
 - ☐ Pharmacy Administration
 - ☐ Other
2. Which of the following choices best describes the size of your hospital facility?
 - ☐ 0-50 beds
 - ☐ 51-100 beds
 - ☐ 101-250 beds
 - ☐ 251-500 beds
 - ☐ > 500 beds
 - ☐ Choose not to answer
3. Please list the state in which you practice (primary practice location).
Use drop-down list of 50 states (+ DC)
4. Which of the following choices best describes your years' in practice?
 - ☐ 0-5
 - ☐ 6-10
 - ☐ 11-15
 - ☐ 15+
 - ☐ Choose not to answer
5. Which of the following choices best describes your gender?
 - ☐ Female
 - ☐ Male
 - ☐ Choose not to answer
6. Which of the following choices best describes your race?
 - ☐ African American
 - ☐ Asian
 - ☐ Caucasian
 - ☐ Hispanic
 - ☐ Other
 - ☐ Choose not to answer

7. Which of the following choices best describes your age?

- ☐ 18 – 25 years
 - ☐ 26 – 35 years
 - ☐ 36 – 45 years
 - ☐ 46 – 55 years
 - ☐ > 55 years
 - ☐ Choose not to answer
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The next section of this survey will ask your responses to **four (4) scenarios that involve ethical reasoning**. These scenarios are in the areas of *autonomy, nonmaleficence, justice, and confidentiality*.

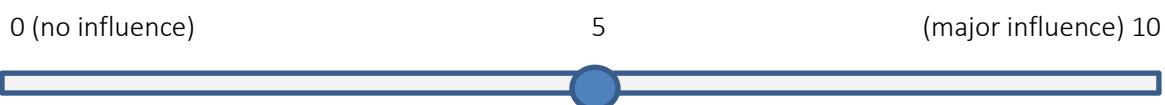
After each of your responses, you will be asked to **“weigh” (scale of 0-10) the influence of each of the following elements** on your responses to the scenarios (*Personal Values, Institutional Policies, Professional Code of Ethics, Religion/Spiritual beliefs, Education/Personal Experience, Legal Obligations/Laws*). Use the slider bars to record the influence of each element on your decision.

Autonomy: This question is regarding an individual's right to refuse or choose a course of action.

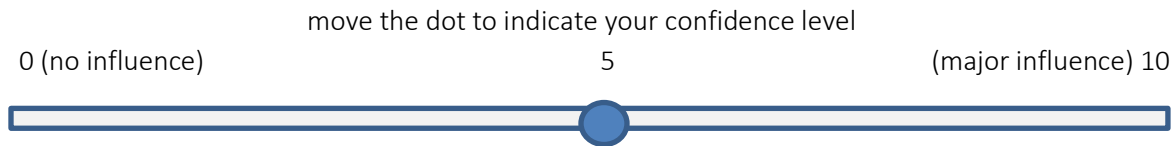
The patient explains that she has “had enough and understands the consequences of her decision to discontinue care”. You present this information to the patient’s team, all of whom are divided on the decision to stop treatment and look toward your input on helping decide the direction of the patient's care.

- ☐ Agree with and advocate for the patient's decision to discontinue treatment.
- ☐ Disagree with the patient's decision and advocate for continuing antibiotic treatment as it has likely not reached the maximal effect.
- ☐ Recommend consultation with the patient's parents and case management to decide on the next steps of patient care.
- ☐ Uncertain - By selecting this option, you are communicating insufficient education and/or experience in the subject area to make a decision. Data collected by this answer choice will be utilized in a gap analysis.

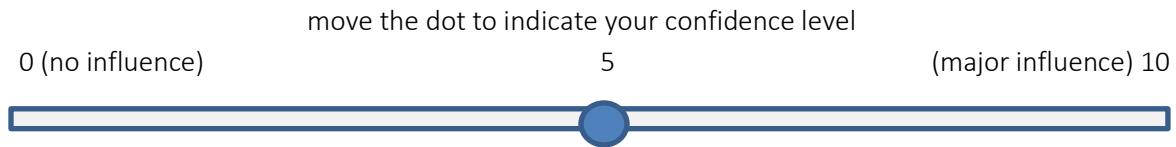
move the dot to indicate your confidence level



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did education/personal experience influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did legal obligations/laws influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?



Nonmaleficence: This question places concern for the well-being of the patient.

You are a clinical pharmacist on a hospital internal medicine team providing care for a 58-year-old male, Gulf War veteran with T2DM, Schizophrenia, and PTSD. The patient is on day 23 of involuntary hospitalization for uncontrolled diabetes and recurrent osteomyelitis of the metatarsal bones in his right foot which remains resistant to conventional antibiotic therapies. The patient is non-compliant with his home medications.

As the pharmacist, you are taking a medication history/interview with the patient. He insists that he does not have diabetes and that aliens visit him while he is sleeping and put sugar in his blood and urine. Additionally, the aliens take out various parts of his body to study (he says the aliens usually put the parts back).

The patient is estranged from family and has a court-appointed guardian ad-litem. The medical team had a meeting with the guardian to discuss the risks and benefits of continued antibiotic therapy, surgical intervention (i.e. amputation), or no further intervention. Following the team meeting, the guardian has authorized surgical intervention. The team plan is to administer an oral sedative (diazepam) crushed and mixed in his applesauce he eats every morning with breakfast, then take him to surgery and surgically remove his foot. He will not be informed in advance of this plan and his consent will not be obtained.

9. Which of the following choices best describes your response to this situation?

- ☐ Disagree with the team decision, and insist that the patient be informed of this procedure, emphasizing that case management needs to be involved.
- ☐ Agree with the team decision, as the patient is likely to not understand the reason for the procedure and will continue to have health complications if his foot is not removed.
- ☐ Recommend consultation with Drug Information to find alternative off-label therapies to attempt to treat patient's chronic infection.
- ☐ Uncertain - By selecting this option, the participant is communicating insufficient education/experience in the subject area to make a decision. Data collected by this answer choice will be utilized in a gap analysis.

On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did personal values influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

move the dot to indicate your confidence level

0 (no influence)

5

(major influence) 10



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did institutional policies influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

move the dot to indicate your confidence level

0 (no influence)

5

(major influence) 10



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did professional Code of Ethics influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

move the dot to indicate your confidence level

0 (no influence)

5

(major influence) 10



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did religion/spiritual beliefs influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

move the dot to indicate your confidence level

0 (no influence)

5

(major influence) 10



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did education/personal experience influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

move the dot to indicate your confidence level

0 (no influence)

5

(major influence) 10



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did legal obligations/laws influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

move the dot to indicate your confidence level

0 (no influence)

5

(major influence) 10



Justice: This question about making a resource allocation decision.

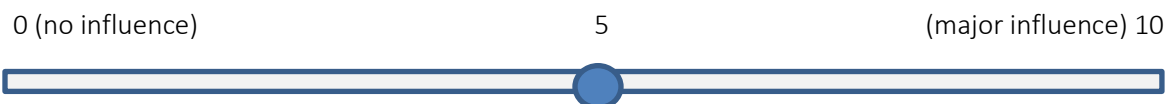
A major financial donor to a hospital has an adult child in the ICU with late-stage Kaposi's sarcoma. The attending physician believes this patient has entered the terminal stage of the disease. However, there are at least 2 challenges associated with this situation:

1. The physician wants to try to "rescue" patient with a course of liposomal doxorubicin. There is very little evidence of positive outcome in late-stage illness. Liposomal doxorubicin is in short supply and the hospital currently has no product available for general clinical use.
2. The small amount of liposomal doxorubicin that the small pharmacy does have is the remaining product from a restricted patient access program supplied by a manufacturer. The manufacturer has already "re-allocated" this residual amount to another patient with early-stage myeloma at another institution. Accordingly, the manufacturer requested the return of this product and the pharmacy has already agreed to return it. The evidence for positive outcomes in early-stage myeloma is stronger than with Kaposi's sarcoma.

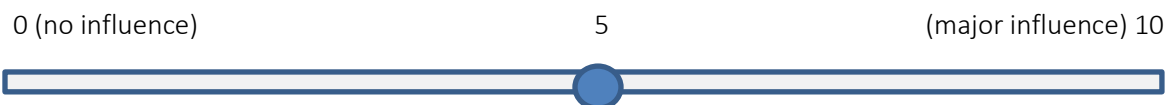
10. Which of the following choices best describes your response to this situation?

- ☐ Approve of the physician's request for a trial of the drug and redirect the liposomal doxorubicin to the patient.
- ☐ Deny the physician's request for use of the drug and explain the shortage and "re-allocation" situation.
- ☐ Inform the physician that you will discuss the situation with the pharmacy procurement team to see if some of the product in stock can be used for the patient.
- ☐ Uncertain - By selecting this option, the participant is communicating insufficient education/experience in the subject area to make a decision. Data collected by this answer choice will be utilized in a gap analysis.

On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did personal values influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?
move the dot to indicate your confidence level



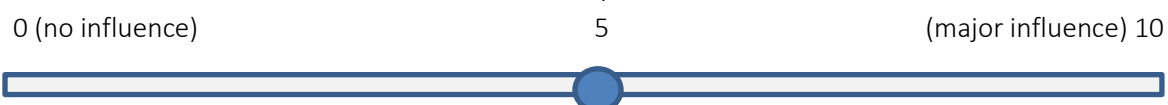
On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did institutional policies influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?
move the dot to indicate your confidence level



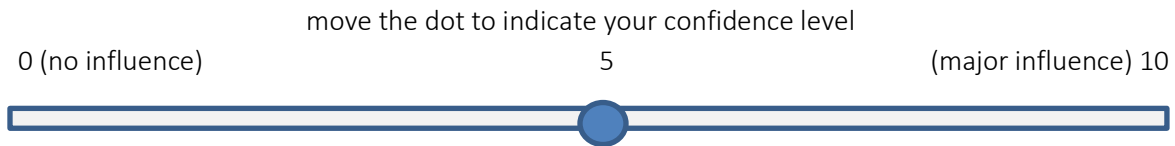
On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did professional Code of Ethics influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?
move the dot to indicate your confidence level



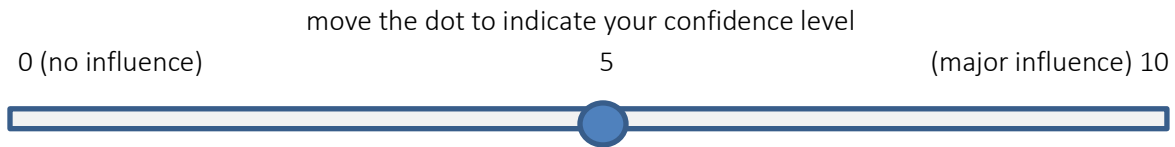
On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did religion/spiritual beliefs influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?
move the dot to indicate your confidence level



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did education/personal experience influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did legal obligations/laws influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?



Confidentiality: This question is regarding the protection of patient health information.

You are a pharmacist on a post-operative surgical care unit. You are conducting afternoon medication reconciliation rounds on your newly admitted patients. One of your patients is a 23-year-old male who is post-operative for gunshot wounds to his upper arm and lower leg. He is the victim of a presumptively gang-related, drive-by shooting while he was outside his home. The patient is expected to fully recover; however, he will be hospitalized for at least one more day.

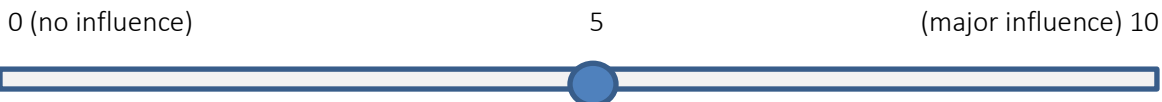
When you enter the room, you find that he has two other visitors. The patient and both of his visitors are heavily tattooed and wearing clothing that is consistent with gang affiliation. You identify yourself and ask if it is ok to discuss his medications in the presence of his visitors. He gives his consent and you begin the medication reconciliation. After two minutes, the patient receives a telephone call, which he answers in Spanish. You understand “enough” Spanish to learn that he has identified to the other person on the phone who shot him and that retaliation needs to occur that evening. You have a pretty good idea of the exact time and location the retaliation will occur.

11. Which of the following best describes your response to this situation?

- ☐ Maintain confidentiality, do not share the information that you overheard as it is protected under HIPPA since the telephone call occurred during your medication reconciliation.
- ☐ Maintain confidentiality due to the risk of personal safety and potential retaliation of the other gang members if they suspected you reported what you heard to authorities.
- ☐ Break confidentiality and inform hospital security as this information is a public safety concern, regardless of the potential personal consequences.
- ☐ Uncertain - By selecting this option, the participant is communicating insufficient education/experience in the subject area to make a decision. Data collected by this answer choice will be utilized in a gap analysis.

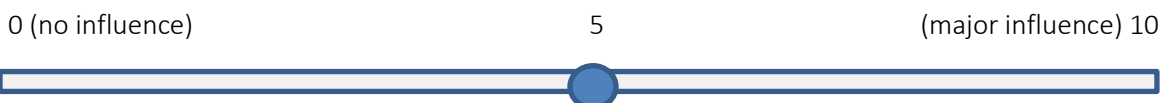
On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did personal values influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

move the dot to indicate your confidence level



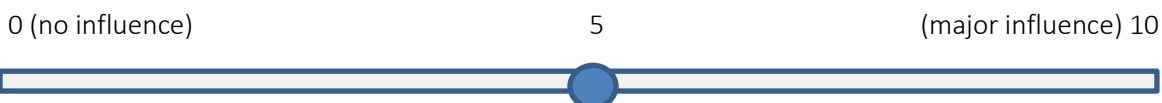
On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did institutional policies influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

move the dot to indicate your confidence level



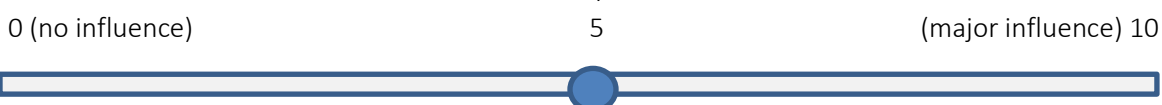
On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did professional Code of Ethics influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

move the dot to indicate your confidence level

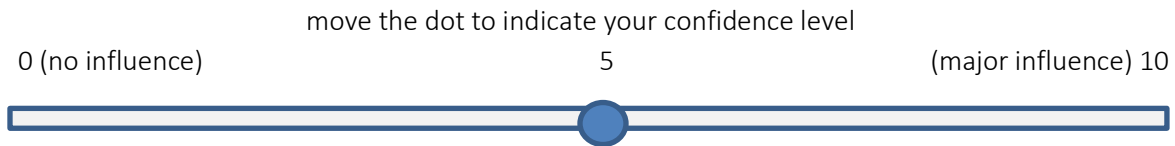


On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did religion/spiritual beliefs influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?

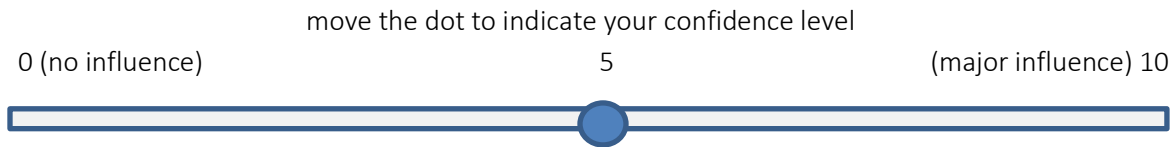
move the dot to indicate your confidence level



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did education/personal experience influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?



On a scale of 0 to 10, what amount did legal obligations/laws influence your response to the clinical case scenario above?



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

The purpose of the education assessment is to gather insight from study participants regarding their awareness of ethical dilemmas through education and practice.

Please respond to the following questions to the best of your ability:

12. What is the total amount of academic training regarding ethical decision-making that you have received (CE, curriculum, institutional) in the last year?

a. Free response (# of hours/credits in the last 2 years)

i. 0, 1-2, 3-5, 5+

b. Please use the following choices to describe how the majority of these hours were obtained. (select all that apply)

- ☐ Continuing Education Program
- ☐ Didactic Coursework
- ☐ Professional Development Workshop/Seminar
- ☐ Organizational/Institutional Internal Education or Training
- ☐ Other

13. On a scale of 0-10, rate your current level of confidence in ethical decision-making.

Move the dot to indicate your confidence level:

0 (least confident) 5 (highly confident) 10



14. Opinion based questions:

On a scale of 0-10, how much of a need is there for education on ethical dilemmas in pharmacy practice?

Move the dot to indicate your level of need:

0 (no need) 5 (great need) 10



On a scale of 0-10, how important to your practice is education on ethical-decision making?

Move the dot to indicate your importance level:

0 (not important) 5 (highly important) 10



Is ethical decision-making an area that you would favor more educational opportunities for CE/education?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Choose not to answer

On a scale of 0-10, rate your preference regarding ethics educational opportunities?

Move the dot to indicate your preference:

0 (not needed) 5 (highly needed) 10

