

## **A Pilot Curriculum of Bioethics Education for Family Medicine Residents**

Prince Nzeata, MD

PGY 3 Resident, McGaw Family Medicine at Lake Forest

### **Abstract:**

**Objectives/Introduction:** Studies consistently show that a medical ethics curriculum in residency is useful and beneficial to the training and growth of an ethical competent physician. There is currently no medical ethics curriculum at Northwestern McGaw Family Medicine Residency at Lake Forest. This project aims to introduce a pilot curriculum to the program and assess its impact on the education and training of the residents. Goals of the curriculum are for the residents to be familiar with basic concepts in medical ethics and familiarize them with a framework of how to identify and navigate ethical problems in medical practice.

**Research Question:** How effective is a pilot bioethics curriculum (consisting of a hybrid of lectures and case discussions) on the knowledge, confidence, and skill of family medicine residents to identify and navigate ethical problems of decision making capacity and informed consent.

**Primary Outcome:** Resident performance on the post curriculum knowledge assessment.

**Secondary Outcome:** Perceived confidence in identifying and assessing ethical issues around decision making capacity and informed consent.

**Methods:** The study group will consist of first, second, and third year family medicine residents at Northwestern Family Medicine at Lake Forest. Prior to the start of the pilot curriculum, a pre-test knowledge assessment will be administered to the residents. The pilot curriculum will consist of three sessions consisting of lecture presentations and case discussions. A post-test knowledge assessment feedback survey will be distributed upon completion of the lecture and presentation curriculum in order to assess the primary and secondary outcomes. Outcomes of the knowledge assessments will be compared using statistical analysis.

**Results:** Pending

**Conclusion:** The project will seek to answer if the pilot curriculum design and content was effective in expanding the knowledge and confidence of the family medicine residents with regards to identifying and navigating ethical problems in practice. Depending on the results and feedback the pilot curriculum can be expanded to cover more topics over time. The study can be further strengthened by using a family medicine program that does not have an ethics curriculum as a control.