

Title:

Website moral reflection: an innovative tool for medical professionals to improve moral counselling skills

Authors & affiliations:

MCB van Zwieten*, GG Palmboom, M Wieringa - de Waard
Academic Medical Center, The Netherlands
m.c.vanzwieten@amc.uva.nl

Abstract:**Introduction**

Increasingly, complex medical situations require moral decision making. In fields like prenatal diagnosis, palliative care or prevention programs, many decisions need to be made by the individual patient, who needs to weigh the pros and cons of all available options. Often, these decisions are moral rather than medical decisions. Moral decision making requires counselling skills to help patients clarifying their personal values. Reflection on their own moral values could help medical professionals developing the required moral counselling skills.

Methods

We are developing a website to instigate medical professionals onto a process of moral reflection. This website is constructed as an evocative learning tool, that can be used by individual medical professional at their own chosen time and place.

The website uses universal moral themes, e.g. vulnerability, transience and manipulability of the body, which attune to the personal perspective of dealing with life, death and illness. Website users are invited to perform a variety of tasks and to present their output in a portfolio that can be used in an educational setting.

Results

A pilot version of the website has been tried out in the Vocational training institute of General practice of the Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam. We will report about the first experiences of general practitioner trainees, who used the website as part of an education course focused on the CanMEDS competence of 'professionalism'.

Discussion

In this workshop we will give an introduction on the theoretical background of the website, followed by a live demonstration. After this, participants will get the opportunity to log in to the website and perform one task.

In a plenary discussion, the participants' individual experiences will be exchanged. Specifically, the added value of this website as a tool to enhance moral reflection will be discussed.