



Today's topics

- 1 Background and barriers
- 2 Current situations: three surveys conducted in Japan
- 3 Personal experiences regarding medical ethics education for healthcare professionals
- 4 Examples of educational programs in hospitals based on personal communication of experts in this field
- 5 Proposals of effective and durable hospital medical ethics education

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1 Background and Barriers

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The goal of medical ethics education

- The goal of medical ethics education for healthcare professionals and students is good medical practice.
- Compared to a decade ago, medical ethics education for medical students in Japan has improved in terms of quality and quantity, and there is now a greater awareness of ethical issues at healthcare facilities than in the past.
- However, medical ethics education for healthcare practitioners has yet to produce sufficient results. The reasons why it is unable to produce practical results may be multi-dimensional.

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Barriers to effective ethics medical education

Atsushi Asai and Miki Fukuyama, Toward Successful Bioethics Education. In [Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Bioethics Education](#), Maceo, Darryl, ed. Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSHSAP), Bangkok: UNESCO Bangkok, 2008. v + 195 pp. ISBN 978-92-9223-221-4 (Electronic version), p147-150.

- Lack of sufficient training opportunities
- Problems with quality and content
- Difficulties in valid evaluation
- Self-termination of educational effects
- Healthcare professionals indifferent to ethics
- Power of hidden curriculum
- Vagueness of what constitutes ethical knowledge, skills, or attitudes

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Lack of training opportunities

- Opportunities for post-graduate ethics education are lacking. It is especially difficult for medical professionals such as physicians and nurses to set aside time to discuss example cases. The opportunities are offered at most once or twice a year, and most facilities do not provide them at all.
- In many cases, the only staff members that receive training in ethics are new interns or nurses. The primary cause for this situation might be that the responsible party does not understand the importance of ethics, the priority for which is set lower than many other subjects, despite the fact that the importance of ethics in medical fields has been emphasized socially.

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