

Recommended Resources

for Trainees on
Understanding How
to Approach
Situations Ethically



AMERICAN
PSYCHIATRIC
ASSOCIATION

The findings, opinions, and conclusions of this report do not necessarily represent the views of the officers, trustees, or all members of the American Psychiatric Association. Views expressed are those of the authors.

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During your training, you may come across scenarios or cases that are puzzling and prompt you to research or refresh your knowledge of psychiatric ethics. Below is a list of resources that provide a foundation for many potential questions.

From the American Psychiatric Association's website:

► *The Principles of Medical Ethics With Annotations Especially Applicable to Psychiatry, 2013 Edition*

- A PDF file located on the APA's Ethics Committee's Webpage

[psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/ethics](https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/ethics)

- This document is essential for understanding the ethics that bind all APA members to this ethical code.

► *Ethics Primer*

[appi.org/Products/Forensic-Psychiatry-Law-and-Ethics/Ethics-Primer-of-the-American-Psychiatric-Association](https://www.appi.org/Products/Forensic-Psychiatry-Law-and-Ethics/Ethics-Primer-of-the-American-Psychiatric-Association)

- This concise book was written with trainees in mind.
- It is a clear, useful guide of 11 chapters with case vignettes based on cases seen by the contributors. Published in 2001, the practical and theoretical guidance remains instructive.

► *APA Commentary on Ethics in Practice*

- A PDF file located on the APA's Ethics Committee's Webpage

[psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/ethics](https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/ethics)

- The Commentary is based on the existing Principles of Medical Ethics With Annotations Especially Applicable to Psychiatry. It is meant to provide practical guidance for ethical dilemmas in day-to-day practice. The commentary is cross-referenced to the Annotations so there is an explicit link between each subject and the ethics code.



Other Texts:

In addition to the texts found directly on the American Psychiatric Association's Website, please find other resources recommended by the APA Ethic Committee that are found at a variety of bookstores and websites.

► *Psychiatric Ethics, 5th Edition*

- Bloch, S., & Green, S. A. (2021). *Psychiatric ethics*. Oxford University Press.
- Compiled by long-time editors Sidney Bloch PhD, and Stephen A. Green, M.D.
- Several current and former APA Ethics Committee members have contributed chapters to this book.
- Since its initial publication in 1981, *Psychiatric Ethics* has provided a foundation for understanding and solving traditional ethical dilemmas.
- Trainees will find approaches to ethics in novel areas from genetics to neuro-ethics.
- It is available at a variety of bookstores and websites.

► *A Clinical Guide to Psychiatric Ethics*

- Roberts, L. W., (2016). *A clinical guide to psychiatric ethics*. American Psychiatric Association Publishing.
- Written by former APA Ethics Chair Laura Weiss Roberts, M.D., M.A.
- Dr. Roberts writes in an accessible style specifically geared to trainees
- Available at a variety of bookstores and websites

Consultation Framework:

► *The 4-box consultation model*

- Jonsen, A. R., Siegler, M., & Winslade, W. J. (2015). *Clinical ethics: A practical approach to ethical decisions in clinical medicine*. McGraw-Hill, Medical Publ. Division.
- In 1982, bioethicists Albert Jonsen, Mark Siegler, MD, and William Winslade, PhD, published *Clinical Ethics*, describing this practical model for unpacking ethics cases. It is used in non-medical disciplines as well.
- Particularly useful for trainees.
- Available at a variety of bookstores and websites
- Example of how the consultation framework is used:

acpinternist.org/archives/2008/01/ethics.htm
[dx.doi.org/10.1136/jme.2007.021212](https://doi.org/10.1136/jme.2007.021212)

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Resources for Current Topics:

With society evolving its understanding of social and racial determinants of healthcare, these resources consider certain ethical issues currently arising in our communities.

▶ *A Primer of Online Resources on Structural Racism in Psychiatry for Medical Students and Trainees in Psychiatry*

- Ratnakaran, B., Gupta, D., & LoAllen, W. (2021). *A Primer of Online Resources on Structural Racism in Psychiatry for Medical Students and Trainees in Psychiatry*. Washington, DC; American Psychiatric Association.
- A compilation of online resources created by APA Fellows as an introduction for trainees to understand structural racism in psychiatry.
- [APA-Primer-Online-Resources-on-Structural-Racism-for-Students-and-Trainees-in-Psychiatry%20\(3\).pdf](#)

▶ *Framing the Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity to Advance Health Equity (Thompson)*

- Thompson, D. (2016). *Framing the dialogue on race and ethnicity to advance health equity: proceedings of a workshop*. The National Academies Press.
- This is a compilation of strategies from a well-known workshop in which a prominent committee discussed awareness and advancement of racial and health equity
- A resource for trainees as an introduction to race and health equity

diversity.ucsf.edu/sites/diversity.ucsf.edu/files/Framing_the_Dialogue_on_Race_and_Ethnicity_to_Advance_Health_Equity-Proceedings_of_a_Workshop.pdf

▶ *On Intersectionality, Essential Writings (Crenshaw)*

- Crenshaw K. (2017). *On intersectionality, essential writings*. New Press.
- This resource is a compilation of Crenshaw's writings, a key figure developing the powerful conceptual framework that goes beyond specific competing perspectives to describe the overlapping structural influences on society.
- Available at a variety of bookstores and websites.

▶ *Transgender Rights (Currah et al.)*

- Currah, P., Juang, R. M., & Minter, S. P. (2006). *Transgender rights*. Univ. of Minnesota Press.
- This book provides in-depth information on critical topics affecting the Transgender community.
- Available at a variety of bookstores and websites

▶ *Dignity (Rosen)*

- Rosen, M. (2018). *Dignity: its history and meaning*. Harvard University Press.
- This is a modification of a series of lectures by philosopher Michael Rosen. It describes the history and political reach of dignity and human rights, from Medicine to Law.
- Available at a variety of bookstores and websites

