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Can we accredit hospital ethics: A tentative proposal

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Ethics is the norm of human behaviors in everyday life and as an academic discipline is a branch of philosophy. Medical ethics has been regarded as applied and professional ethics in the typology of ethics.

The discussion of medical ethics has mostly centered on how health care professionals should behave individually. There is less discussion on how health care organizations should behave. In other words, people are less clear about the concept of organizational ethics in health care settings. Organizational ethics is about how an organization should behave in accordance with ethical principles. It can be perceived as the aggregation of individual ethics within the organization. Aside from the well known four principles of biomedical ethics proposed by Beauchamp and Childress (2001) that are applicable to the analyses both at the individual and organizational levels, health care organizational ethics also have unique aspects. For instance, the ethical issues of hospital management are less discussed. The issues at hand are whether we need to accredit hospital ethics and whether hospital ethics can be accredited objectively. The objective of this research is to develop ethics accreditation standards for hospitals. The underlying assumptions are we need to accredit hospital ethics and hospital ethics can be accredited objectively. Under these two basic assumptions, we then try to address the research question: what are the standards that can be applied in hospital ethics accreditation? To sum up, this project demonstrated a broad spectrum of bioethical community engagement from disadvantaged populations to eco-urban planning, through applying knowledge management under an information communication and bioethics governance platform. Lessons regarding the development of regional RECs contextualized with communal life experiences as well as geographic features are discussed. Areas of bioethical concern detailed will cover community mental health, ecological regional planning, environmental and electronic engineering, and research involving biomedicine and post-genomic public health in a emerging information society