



Joint Centre for Bioethics
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

BIOETHICS SEMINAR

January 25, 2017, 4:10-5:30 pm

155 College St., Room 108 (main floor, to the right of the elevators)

This event will be webcast:

<https://jcb.adobeconnect.com/bioethicsseminars/>

Quality of Life Feeds: The Health Care Provider's Perspective

Peter Allatt, Clinical Ethicist, Sinai Health System, Bridgepoint

Joyce Lai, Medical Student, University of Toronto

Phoebe Smith-Chen, SLP and Patient Relations Consultant, Michael Garron Hospital

Ben Walmsley, Medical Student, Queens University

Tasneem Wallani, SLP, Sinai Health System, Bridgepoint

Abstract: Patients with dysphagia are living longer. Despite swallowing difficulties, some request oral intake. "Quality of life feeds" (QoLF) give a patient with dysphagia small amounts of food/drink for pleasure, taste sensation, oral sensation (mastication), companionship, or a sense of normalcy but are not intended for nutritional needs or caloric intake. Patients with dysphagia who receive QoLF are at increased risk of aspiration and choking, causing moral distress for providers. Little research exists in this area. How do providers view QoLF? When ethical issues arise, how do they handle them? To explore, we conducted a mixed-methods pilot study using semi-structured focus groups or 1:1 interviews followed by a survey with five case vignettes. Research participants were health care providers (HCPs) within a healthcare institution whose experiences of QoLF differed widely. Our analysis revealed prominent themes in regards to HCP's perspectives on QoLF, such as concern in relation to risk, perceived incongruences with goals of care and patient decision-making capacity. Findings suggest future avenues of research and considerations for care in settings with QoLF.

155 College Street, Ste. 754, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P8 Canada Tel.: [416] 978-2709 Fax: [416] 978-1911 jcb.utoronto.ca

A partnership among the University of Toronto; Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab; The Hospital for Sick Children; Humber River Hospital; Mount Sinai Hospital; Toronto Community Care Access Centre; Trillium Health Partners; and University Health Network (Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, and Toronto Western Hospital).