Evening Ethics

Ethical Issues Surrounding Medical Marijuana

Last December, the Utah State Legislature enacted a replacement bill for Prop 2. The Utah Medical Cannabis Act presents many complex issues for health care systems. These include whether to offer medical cannabis, which providers should become qualified medical professionals for medical cannabis, how to certify patients, and whether to make available to patients information about whether medical cannabis is offered. Because a number of institutions must be in place before the Act is fully operational, health care systems will also face ethical issues in managing the transitional period. For example, the Act requires establishment of a Compassionate Use Board to consider approvals for medical cannabis of patients who do not have a listed qualifying condition or who are under 21 but who seek approval for their use of medical cannabis.

As background reading for this session, the University of Utah’s statement can be found at https://healthcare.utah.edu/medical-marijuana/ You might also want to look at reporting on Intermountain Healthcare Here. In addition, for a fact sheet from the Utah Department of Health on the medical Cannabis Act that may be helpful contact linda.carrlee@hsc.utah.edu