

Call for Papers

Ethical Issues in Palliative Sedation

Empirical studies show that the frequency of sedation in the context of palliative and end-of-life care is increasing in many countries. Sedation is used for a variety of patients and in reaction to diverse problems. At the same time, there are numerous ethical questions and uncertainties associated with this practice. What are legitimate indications for palliative sedation, only treatment-refractory physical symptoms or also psychological, social and existential suffering? How should sedation be responsibly practiced, with which drugs, for how long and to which depth of sedation? When is continuous deep sedation until death adequate? Can or should continuous deep sedation coupled with withholding artificial nutrition and hydration be practiced as an alternative to euthanasia? Can palliative or continuous deep sedation be practiced in patients who lack decisional capacity where informed consent cannot be obtained? What about sedation for patients who decide to die by voluntary stopping of eating and drinking? Is intrauterine sedation necessary in the context of feticide? Is sedation an adequate response for persons with behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia? These are just a few of the many controversial ethical issues around sedation.

Bioethica Forum will publish a special issue on the ethics of palliative sedation in summer 2018 and invites all interested clinicians and scholars of various disciplines to submit contributions in **English, French or German**. Authors can submit either an **original article** or a personal **viewpoint** (see www.bioethica-forum.ch, Instructions).

Bioethica Forum is the official journal of the Swiss Society for Biomedical Ethics. It publishes scientific articles on bioethics topics four times per year.

Please submit original articles, viewpoints and other contributions **by December 1, 2017** to: ralf.jox@chuv.ch or markus.zimmermann@unifr.ch.