

Newspaper op-ed

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The negative effect of the proposed bill to Public health In Turkewitz' s article identifies various efforts by the public in seeking rights to choose whether to use experimental drugs. The argument in this debate has been whether to legalize their usage if the patient seeks to do so. Each public health issues are guided by ethics thus any public health argument should keep in mind the medical code of ethics. The patients' rights are limited to other factors including the implication of their action to the medical fraternity. There is need to focus on the wellbeing of the public while at the same time seeking models that will ensure rules are followed.

Legislations aim at safeguard the functionality of a given institution. The bill being proposed to allow the patients to choose whether to use experimental drugs, shall mean medical practitioners are have limited control in matters public health. Any action requires an individual to take responsibility. The medical code of ethics means that each doctor or nay other health officer is enshrined by a given set of roles thus must adhere to these rules. This implies that any effect of a given drug to a patient. My allowing the use of experimental drugs will mean that each patient would be liable if the drug negatively affects them. This will mean that the doctors and other medical officers will be reduced to inactive members in public health. This will culminate into malpractices by these officers with knowledge that the existing regulation protects them from any punishment. This will hence undermine the essence of ethical code of conduct. The patients will be subjected to commercialized health system that cares less on practitioners' ethics.

The bill fails to specify under which circumstances the experimental drugs will be used. The loophole in the bill will create room for the medical

practitioners to use these drugs for their own benefits. This will entail using humans as ‘ guinea pigs’ in an attempt to create a product that commercially benefit the doctors administering treatment. The use of human in test the raises the question on the ethical components of the experimental drugs. Companies will collaborate with health providers in a scheme to test their drugs on humans. The patients will subject to a series of drugs without their knowledge. The essence of any public health institution is to ensure the patient’s welfare is protected. The physicians in any facility should ensure any activity improves the wellbeing of their patients.

In any terminal illness case there is the question of when should the ending life decision be made? The doctors may decide to end a patient’s life due to pain or other factors brought forward by the patient and family. The main argument would be the appropriate means to execute the act while maintaining the ethics. Majority of states in America limits the manner in which palliative care is administered. This is an effort by government to control euthanasia. In an event a doctor uses experimental drug and it turns out fatal, they may the loopholes provided by in the bill to escape prosecution. Doctors may end-life knowing that the law will protect them if convicted. The provision in the bill should keep in mind the decision making process while ending life. The legality of euthanasia and assisted suicide should not be used as a component in administering experimental drugs.

In conclusion, it is evident that the public health sector is guided by ethics. Treatment of a patient needs to focus on the welfare of the patient and at the same time follow set guidelines. The occurrence of an epidemic will mean alternative means are deployed to control; the spread while tested drugs used to ensure those affected are treated. The essence of any law is to

regulate operations in a given manner. The decision-making should be consultative between patients and the doctors thus creating consent between the two parties. This means that experimental drugs should be limited. It is evident that each public health issue is guided by ethics. Thus, physicians and other health workers need to acknowledge this and operate within the rules set by the public health sector.