

**Title: A SMARTPHONE APP TO TEACH MILITARY MEDICAL ETHICS AND REDUCE MORAL INJURY – and - DO WE NEED A COMMON, PRACTITIONER FOCUSED FRAMEWORK TO GUIDE DECISION MAKING IN MILITARY MEDICAL ETHICS?**

Congress Theme: **Ethics & Spiritual fitness & Moral injury**

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## **Summary**

This workshop will open with a short summary of military medical ethics (MME) and its relevance to the healthcare professions in the armed forces. MME has been in continual debate across ICMM Congresses and has had an increasing number of academic papers published on the subject<sup>1</sup>. MME covers topics in medical ethics that military professionals need to know<sup>2</sup> and topics that healthcare professionals need to know around the potential clash of dual loyalty between the military and medical professions<sup>3</sup>.

Education in ethics is best achieved through the application of knowledge in small group discussions around predictable ethical problems. We have developed a suite of scenarios in MME and the presentation of these scenarios as a pack of playing cards and a smartphone app<sup>2</sup>. They are based upon the themes within the ICRC/WMA/ICMM 'Ethical Principles of Health Care in times of Armed Conflict and other Emergencies'<sup>4</sup>. Each scenario was developed through consensus workshops. The cards and the app have been used extensively since 2019 in face-to-face, hybrid, and virtual teaching environments. However, it was clear from this experience that a framework for ethical decision-making in MME is required.

We undertook a literature review and identified 4 examples; the principles listed by Beauchamp and Childress, a UK '4 Quadrant Model', a framework taught at the ICMM Reference Centre on MME and the Humanitarian Healthcare Ethics Analysis Tool. Drawing on these, we propose 4 Step approach: Identify the issue, Analyse perspectives (patient, legal, clinical, societal), Fuse the findings, Decide what should be done. The workshop presents 6 scenarios for analysis in small groups and seeks feedback on the suitability of this framework against 5 criteria on a 5 point Likert scale: Acceptability, Suitability, Feasibility, Sustainability, Adaptability.

1. Bailey Z, Mahoney P, Miron M, Bricknell M. Thematic Analysis of Military Medical Ethics Publications From 2000 to 2020-A Bibliometric Approach. *Mil Med.* 2022 Jul 1;187(7-8):e837-e845. doi: 10.1093/milmed/usab317. PMID: 34331064; PMCID: PMC9248292.
2. Bricknell MC, Miron M. Medical Ethics for the Military Profession. *Revista Científica General José María Córdova.* 2021 Dec;19(36):851-66.
3. Bricknell M, Story R. An Overview to Military Medical Ethics. *Journal of Military and Veterans Health.* 2021 Apr 30;30(2):7-16.

3. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Ethical principles of health care in times of armed conflict and other emergencies. Geneva: ICRC, 2015.
4. Miron M, Bricknell M. Innovation in education: the military medical ethics 'playing cards' and smartphone application. *BMJ Mil Health*. 2021 Oct 28:bmjmilitary-2021-001959. doi: 10.1136/bmjmilitary-2021-001959. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34711675.