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Bio Medical Ethics

28 August 2020

Article Response

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmp2003539>

 This article is about the current Covid-19 pandemic. It starts out talking about how doctors’ appointments and the screening processes for Covid have changed in order to further protect both doctors and patients. Our modern technology has benefitted us during these trying times as it has enabled patients to check in with their doctors over the phone or via web cam if they believe they do not need immediate treatment. Most hospitals have also instituted a kind of triage process that can assess which patients are the most high-risk and require immediate attention. One thing that is important to recognize in this triage and screening process is that it needs to be very intricately coordinated. Health care workers need to quickly assess patients and not send them to places like ED’s, urgent care centers, or offices because in order to avoid transmission in those populated spaces.

The rest of the article goes deeper into the next steps of the triage process. This includes in-person visits, keeping confirmed and suspected Covid patients isolated from healthy people, and keeping medical and public spaces clean and sanitized. It also goes on to talk about the risks and precautions health care workers must think about in order to protect themselves and others. It is estimated that about 100 health care workers at any given facility must be quarantined due to exposure. However, that does not mean that these individuals are not still working. The health care professionals often take over telecommunication and online appointments for patients who do not wish to leave their home, as their will not be seeing them in person anyway.

As far Bio-Medical Ethics goes, I think this article is a pretty good example of how much is changing nowadays in the health care industry and how much of what we are seeing now is uncharted waters. This pandemic is unlike anything anyone alive in our country has had to deal with before. However, we do have the benefit of our modern technology to help us maintain social distancing and quarantine while so providing care to those who need it. From an ethical perspective, one could argue that technology is also making things harder for our health care workers. Is it really ethical for health care workers to be working over the computer and caring for patients while they have to be quarantined?On top of that, there are the other questions about working from home; Do health care workers provide the best care they can when no one is supervising them? Can they when they are stuck at home and with all the responsibilities that go with that such as children, family, and housework? Is it even right to have them work when they are in quarantine because they have been exposed to a deathly, highly contagious virus? These are all questions that no one really has a good answer for. While online care in innovative, new, and seemingly effective, it also has its disadvantages. There is often a lack of privacy for patients that is provided when they go to the doctor’s office. Can patients be trusted to properly describe their condition and examine themselves without the help of a health care professional? What kind of things are missed in an evaluation is the doctor cannot see a patient in person? Not to mention that Covid-19 impacts low-income and impoverished communities at a higher rate than other communities, and often those people do not have private access to a computer, phone, or webcam for extended periods of time? There is no doubt that technology has helped us manage and treat this pandemic in a quick and convenient way, but most of our technology is relatively new. One cannot discount that that comes with it’s own set of problems and ethical questions.