

Ethical Principles and Pitfalls, Especially in the Pandemic

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University of Colorado
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"If you are in a shipwreck and all the boats are gone, a piano top buoyant enough to keep you afloat may come along and make a fortuitous life preserver. This is not to say, though, that the best way to design a life preserver is in the form of a piano top. I think that we are clinging to a great many piano tops in accepting yesterday's fortuitous contrivings as constituting the only means for solving a given problem."

—Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983)



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“To be good is noble. But to show others how to be good is nobler, ...

... and no trouble.”

— Mark Twain



EPIC

Objectives

1. Identify several ethical principles that are relevant to the current pandemic (PRINCIPLES)
2. Identify several factors that make ethical choices more difficult (PITFALLS)
3. APPLY information about ethical principles and difficulties to professional activities

Opening Exercise

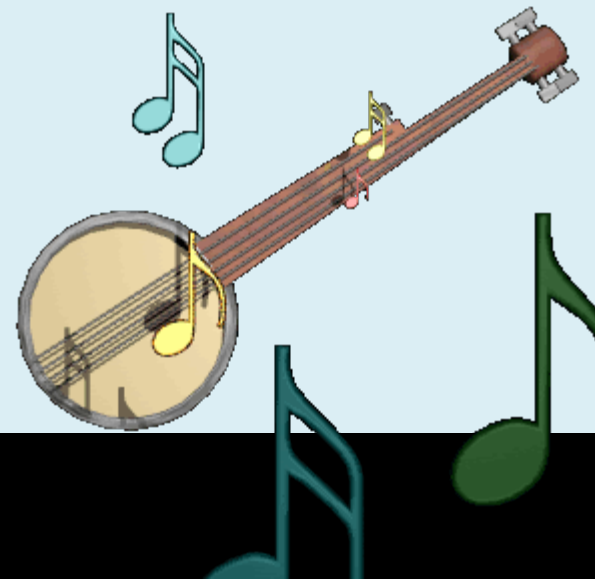
What are the decisions you have been facing since the pandemic—as clinicians, supervisors, researchers, educators, administrators, advisors, and any other professional capacities?

- They can be little day-to-day decisions, or big ones.
- They don't have to be ethical dilemmas!

Please Don't Look Here —
There're No Visuals For This Part

PRINCIPLES (and virtues)

- Social Justice
- Competence
- Beneficence – Nonmaleficence
- Autonomy
- Justice
- Virtues, including
 - Diligence
 - Humility
 - Honesty



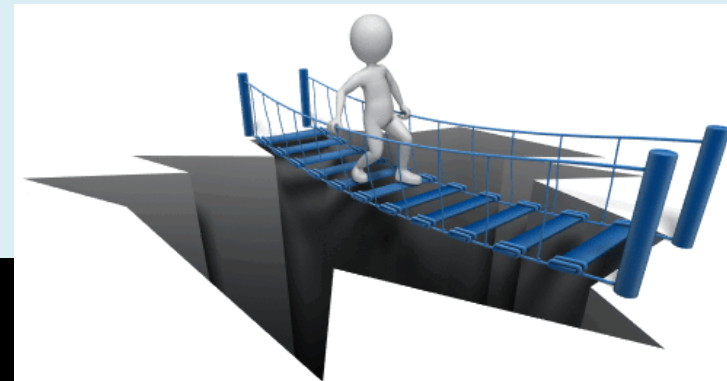
Example: Teletherapy

- Beneficence/Nonmaleficence
- Competence
- Informed consent
- Confidentiality
- Consultation



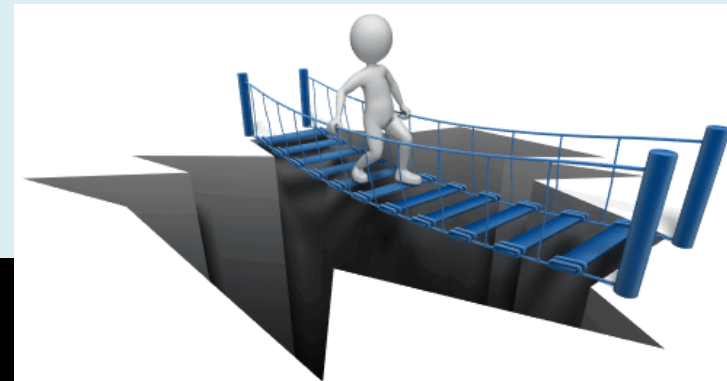
Pitfalls – “Tripping Points”

- Framing and Ethical Fading
- Anchoring
- Confirmation Bias
- Substitution Principle
 - “Do I have an opening?”
 - “Is this patient a good fit for teletherapy?”



Pitfalls – “Tripping Points”

- Framing and Ethical Fading
- Anchoring
- Confirmation Bias
- Substitution Principle
 - “Did I get the form signed?”
 - “Have I provided a thorough and useful informed consent process?”



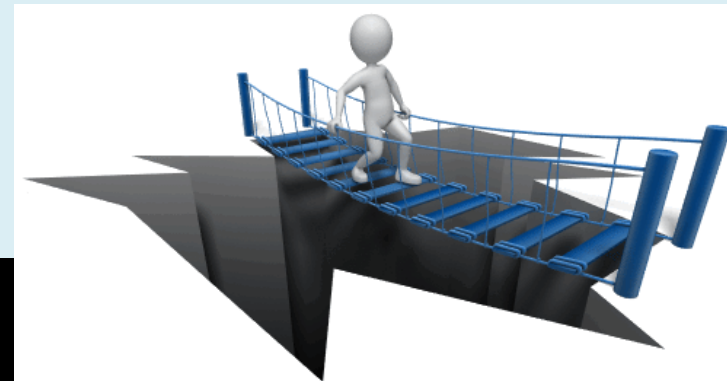
Pitfalls – “Tripping Points”

- Framing and Ethical Fading
- Anchoring
- Confirmation Bias
- Substitution Principle
 - “Have I put my course online?”
 - “Have I provided an equivalent learning experience for all my students?”



Pitfalls – “Tripping Points”

- Framing and Ethical Fading
- Anchoring
- Confirmation Bias
- Substitution Principle
- Bias Blind Spot



Exercise

Pick a decision, issue, situation, or dilemma. Then, talk about

- One principle you need to keep in mind that might be new
- One tripping point to which you might be prone
 - Look into your bias blind spot

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THANK YOU

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Questions?

