

Nursing home doctor interview guide

Intro

COVID-19 has entailed numerous measures at nursing homes, in other parts of the healthcare sector and elsewhere in society, which may have resulted in ethically challenging situations for doctors. In this interview, we would like to focus on these situations, and in particular on ethically challenging situations for nursing home doctors, in order to learn more about what was difficult, how it was managed and what we can learn from it.

Ethically challenging situations during COVID-19

- How has the past year been for you?
- Have you experienced ethically challenging situations in your work in the past year?
 - Can you describe the situation? What was it that made it challenging?
 - Are these ethically challenging situations different to before COVID-19? Why? Why not?
 - Situations where you were in doubt about what was in the patient's best interests? Had to consider different treatments?
- What has it been like to manage dying patients during COVID-19?
 - What has been ethically challenging?
 - Can you give any examples?
 - What have been the consequences for patients/relatives/management/the department/you yourself?
 - How challenging did you find these situations?
- At the start of COVID-19, there was a lot of discussion about hospitalisations and where to place the limit on treatment; can you describe what it has been like to manage hospitalisations during COVID-19?
 - Can you give examples?
 - What was challenging in the decision about whether or not to admit a patient to hospital?
 - What did you take into consideration in the decision-making process?
- Nursing homes often have some patients with dementia; what has it been like to manage these patients during COVID-19? Has anything been different?
 - What has been ethically challenging?
 - Can you give any examples?
 - How has it affected the use of coercion, e.g. in connection with COVID-19 testing and vaccination?

- Many nursing homes have implemented various forms of visitor bans during the pandemic to safeguard their patients. We are interested in knowing how you have found it to be a doctor responsible for treatment in these situations?
 - What has been challenging?
 - How has it affected treatment?
 - Can you give examples?
 - How have you managed regarding dying patients?
 - How have you managed regarding relatives?
 - How challenging did you find these situations?
- How have you balanced infection control against other considerations?

External factors

- What do you think about the COVID-19 guidelines that were introduced and political decisions?
 - Local? National?
 - How did these affect your ability to treat patients?
 - How did it affect your role as a doctor?