

John Dossetor
Health Ethics
Centre



**JOHN DOSSETOR
HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE**

**2021-
2022
SERIES**

HEALTH ETHICS SEMINAR

Using a Disability Ethics Lens to Reflect on What and Who is Considered “Essential” in Healthcare

Heidi Janz, PhD

Chair, Ending-of-Life Ethics Committee, Council of Canadians with Disabilities;
Assistant Adjunct Professor, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta

Thursday, 28 October 2021

12:00 - 13:00 MDT

WEBINAR Presentation via Zoom application

To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/99146822785>; Meeting ID: 991 4682 2785

One tap mobile: +17789072071,,99146822785# Canada; +12042727920,,99146822785# Canada

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The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed with stark clarity a sharp distinction between what is considered “essential” and “non-essential” in healthcare. This division between “essential” and “non-essential” has generally been based on a utilitarian ethic which frames the needs, and, ultimately, the lives of people with disabilities, as “non-essential”. This has serious implications for people with disabilities in and beyond the current fourth wave of the pandemic. In this seminar, I will use a disability ethics lens to identify and examine the ableist underpinnings of many current pandemic policies and protocols, such as the implementation of “essential visitor” policies in hospitals and the creation of Critical Care Triage Protocols to determine who will and will not receive critical care in the event that the demand for critical care resources outstrips the supply. I will conclude this seminar with a consideration of some of the ongoing implications that these exclusionary policies and protocols could have for people with disabilities in a post-pandemic world.

More information: please call 780-492-6676, e-mail dossetor.centre@ualberta.ca or visit [Dossetor Centre website](https://www.dossetorcentre.ca)

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