

John Dossetor
Health Ethics
Centre



**JOHN DOSSETOR
HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE**

**2022-
2023
SERIES**

HEALTH ETHICS SEMINAR

WHEN DOES COERCION INVALIDATE CONSENT TO TREATMENT?



Eric Mathison, PhD, HEC-C

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto Scarborough;
Chief Clinical Ethicist for Compass Ethics;
Clinical Lecturer, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

Thursday, 8 December 2022

12:00 - 13:00 MST

WEBINAR Presentation via Zoom application

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Coercion in healthcare threatens informed consent. Some have argued that COVID-19 vaccination mandates - e.g., making vaccination a condition of employment - violate informed consent since, these people argue, the mandates are coercive and coercion invalidates consent. In this presentation, I argue that - clearly understanding what coercion is, shows that it is less common than many believe. To do this, I distinguish between coercion in general and the level of coercion required to invalidate consent. I then show that choice interference such as vaccination mandates provide a useful point of comparison to other concerns about coercion in healthcare. If valid consent is possible when vaccinations are mandated - which I argue is the case - then it follows that coercion that risks invalidating consent in other treatment contexts is uncommon.

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