

Rural Health Ethics

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The following discussion questions are provided as an additional educational tool to accompany this fireside chat video. Please feel free to select the questions that are most relevant to your committee or group, revise and adapt them as needed etc. As always, we welcome feedback on this or any other NSHEN resource.

1. How does context influence our values, experiences and decision-making in relation to health care?
2. Do you agree that place matters in relation to health care experiences and decision-making? Why or why not?
3. Discuss the speakers' definitions of *rural* and how perspective determines the definition of rural. How does your understanding of rural relate to the speakers' and others in your group?
4. Can *community* be a value? If so, explore what the value would look like. If not, why not?
5. Discuss the concept of *the ethics of strangers*.
6. Discuss the deficit perspective. Have you experienced this kind of comparison of rural and urban in your practice? What ethical issues arise from such comparisons? What strengths do you think exist in rural practice?
7. How did you react to the discussion about how there can be a tradeoff between confidentiality and receiving care in one's community? Is this ethical? Do you agree that confidentiality is negotiated differently in rural contexts than urban ones?
8. Discuss whether policies developed in urban settings can always necessarily apply to rural areas and accurately reflect rural health care systems.
9. Discuss the recruitment of physicians to rural areas and the concept of *the ideal physician*. Do you think we should change how we recruit physicians to rural areas?
10. What issues of professional boundaries and dual roles and relationships for health care providers arise in rural communities that likely wouldn't arise in urban settings?

Resources

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