

Episode: *Author Interview: “AMA Code of Medical Ethics’ Opinions Related to ‘Turfing”*

Guest: Maya Roytman

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript by: Cheryl Green

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[bright theme music]

[00:00:04] TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the Author Interview series from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I'm your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides an alternative way to access the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Maya Roytman, a first-year student in medicine and in bioethics and health policy at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Illinois. In 2023, she interned with the American Medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. Maya's here to discuss her article, "AMA Code of Medical Ethics' Opinions Related to 'Turfing,'" in the December 2023 issue of the Journal, [Belonging, Placement, and Turfing](#). Maya, thank you so much for being on the podcast.

MAYA ROYTMAN: Thank you so much for having me. [music fades]

[00:00:52] HOFF: So, what is the main ethics point of your article?

ROYTMAN: Yeah. So, the main takeaway from this article is to really bring light to the practice of turfing. So, this is a practice where a supposedly undesired or difficult patient is transferred care to a different provider just for the sake of transferring responsibility of care. And this practice has been popularized in literature such as *The House of God* by Samuel Shem or even in TV shows like *Scrubs*, from the episode of *My Turf War*. And it's a practice that can make patients feel unwanted in the clinical setting and potentially fracture the patient/physician relationship that's based on trust. And so, in this article, I highlight patients' rights to continuity of care, rights to safe referral and discharge, as well as how to best honor the patient/physician relationship as according to the AMA's *Code of Medical Ethics*.

[00:01:53] HOFF: And what do you see as the most important thing for health professions students and trainees specifically to take from your article?

ROYTMAN: Yeah. So, as a student trainee myself, I really wrote this in a way to highlight that we all have an onus of responsibility over a patient's care and to really highlight that interdisciplinary collaboration of care is essential to ensure that patients do have a sense of belonging and that that sense of belonging impacts health care and health care outcomes. And so, I really wanted to bring this home with highlighting the *AMA Code of Medical Ethics'* opinions related to disparities in health care, as well as to the opinions related to collaborative care and how interdisciplinary and interprofessional care is necessary for providing the necessary patient-centered care, honoring the patient/physician relationship, and having shared responsibility over care.

[00:02:50] HOFF: And finally, if you could add a point to your article that you didn't have the time or space to fully explore, what would that be?

ROYTMAN: Yeah, I think that there are several things that I'd really love to expand upon if given the space in this article. And one of those things is to really talk about how integral patients' sense of belonging is to health equity and as well as how there are numerous examples of what collaborative care in the health care environment looks like. [theme music returns] And so, one thing that I would love to do is to really expand on what those potential models of interdisciplinary collaborative care looks like in a more practical sense.

[00:03:32] HOFF: Maya, thank you so much for your time on the podcast today and thanks for your contribution to the Journal this month.

ROYTMAN: Thank you so much.

HOFF: To read the full article as well as the rest of this month's issue for free, visit our site, journalofethics.org. We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.