

Journal of Child Health Care <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/chc>

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Submission deadline: Friday, 9th April 2021

What matters morally for children receiving health care?

Complexities of child development and the nature of childhood itself present a range of moral challenges. Provision of health care to children offers significant differences between children's experiences and capacities at different ages and developmental stages. These complexities of childhood influence decisions about type of health care provided, how and where care is delivered, and experiences of clinicians, family and carers, and children themselves.

Children, even at a very young age, are often capable of moral experiences. These include empathy, compassion, respect, and personal agency, and may distinguish between actions they consider right or wrong. At the same time children, especially at a very young age, often lack knowledge and self-conception to make more complex moral judgements about themselves. Children's moral experiences concern both what children care about for themselves and, what matters to others involved in their care

Understanding what matters morally to children receiving health care is key to designing and implementing interventions, policies, and practices. These understandings can help protect and promote the health of children and support diverse needs of children and their families.

Special issue overall aim

To examine moral experiences of children receiving health care, and, consequently, the kinds of moral considerations relevant in children health care delivery.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Conceptualising children's moral experiences
- How children express their moral concerns and experiences
- Moral experience as a determinant of health
- Impact of children's moral experiences on their experience of health care
- Clinician's and/or carers' moral concerns when caring for children.
- Delivering appropriately family-centred care to children
- Evaluating child health focused interventions with a moral dimension
- Challenges with solutions to providing care and support for what matters to children

This special issue of 'what matters morally' is intended to be interpreted broadly to include studies that consider the experiences, not only of children, but also of their families and carers, clinicians and others involved in the health care of children.

We welcome submissions from a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives. We welcome empirical papers and literature reviews (systematic, narrative, integrative) and are especially pleased to consider papers in which the child's voice is evident.

Dr Kim Atkins

Special edition editor

Adjunct Associate Professor (Philosophy)

School of Humanities, University of Tasmania

Dr Stephen McKeever

Editor-in-Chief

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chc.pra@sagepub.com