

Ethics & Medical Research

Early Regulatory Responses

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently to these issues in the next class meeting.

Readings

- Tom Beauchamp, "The Belmont Report", pp. 149–155.
- Joan Porter & Greg Koski, "Regulations for the Protection of Humans in Research in the United States", pp. 156–167.

Questions

1. What are the fundamental objectives of the Belmont Report? What are the fundamental objectives of the Common Rule? What role are general ethical principles supposed to play in each of these?
2. What are the three basic moral values endorsed by the Belmont Report? What does each mean, and how does each entail a more specific practical requirement for research? In what ways are these broader values and requirements reflected in the Common Rule?
3. What the criticisms of the Belmont Report and the Common Rule?
4. What do you take to be the most salient differences between the Belmont Report, the Common Rule, and the Nuremberg Code?