

Ethics & Medical Research

Ethical Issues in Recruiting Research Participants

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

- Neal Dickert & Christine Grady, "Incentives for Research Participants", pp. 386–396.
- Franklin Miller, "Recruiting Research Participants", pp. 397–403.

Questions

1. What are the four models of payment that Dickert and Grady outline? Can you apply these models to a specific case? What are their relative advantages and disadvantages, especially when it comes to the ethical concerns discussed by Dickert and Grady? What model do Dickert and Grady favor and why? Do you agree with their reasoning?
2. Miller mentions about five ethical concerns with a physician recruiting his or her own patients for a study. What are they and how does Miller propose to address them?
3. What ethical issues are raised by advertisements for clinical research and how does Miller propose to address these?