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BIOETHICS SEMINAR

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End-of-Life Care: Where are the Ethical Lines?

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With a commentary by

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10 February 2010, 3:10 – 4:30 pm

NOTE NEW ADDRESS: *Joint Centre for Bioethics,
155 College St., 7th Floor
Turn right off elevator and enter through Suite 754*

Abstract: Treatment decisions for dying patients become ethically controversial when they risk hastening death. But some are more controversial than others. Withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment (with or without patient consent) is standard medical practice, as is the administration of high-dose opioids or sedatives. Assisted death (physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia), on the other hand, is prohibited both by medical codes of ethics and by law. This spectrum of institutionally accepted judgements presupposes that a bright ethical line can somehow be drawn between the former measures and the latter. In this talk I will assess the prospects of such line-drawing.

The University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics Seminar Series is an accredited continuing education activity under CFPC and RCPSC programs.

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