

Provider-Patient Relationships: Old Foundations and New Frontiers

2026 Hybrid Course Schedule

Online Zoom Video Conference Sessions

Tuesday, January 6, 7 PM to 8 PM CST

Opioid Crisis in Perspective: New Frontier Health Law, Ethics, and Professionalism (White)

Preparatory reading: White BD, "America's Opioids Crises and the Law: An Introductory Primer," in DE Holley, C Rivais, BD White, *Clinical Ethics and the Law: Cases and Concepts* (New York, NY: Springer Nature, 2018 draft).

Tuesday, January 13, 7 PM to 8 PM CST

Clinical Research and a Provider-Patient Relationship Primer (White)

Preparatory reading: White BD, "Human Subjects Research," in DE Holley, C Rivais, BD White, *Clinical Ethics and the Law: Cases and Concepts* (New York, NY: Springer Nature, 2018 draft).

Tuesday, January 20, 7 PM to 8 PM CST

Communication Challenges in Health Care's New Frontier (Bridgesmith)

Preparatory reading: Stuart M. Butler, Nehath Sheriff, "How Poor Communication Exacerbates Health Inequities – And What To Do About It," February 22, 2021, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-poor-communication-exacerbates-health-inequities-and-what-to-do-about-it/>.

Tuesday, January 27, 7 PM to 8 PM CST

Third-Party Influences on Provider-Patient Decision Making (White)

Preparatory reading: American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, "Joint Principles for Protecting the Physician-Patient Relationship," May 23, 2018, https://www.aafp.org/news/media-center/more-statements/joint_principles_for_protecting_the_patient_physician_relationship.html.

In Person Sessions, The Pearl, Rosemary Beach, Florida

Friday, February 6, 2026

First Session, 8 AM to 9 AM

Jonsen-Siegler-Winslade's Shared Decision-Making in the Era of Patient Empowerment
(White)

- Exploring strategies to balance professional expertise with patients' increased access to online health information.
- Case studies where shared decision-making improved adherence and outcomes.

[Preparatory reading: White BD, "The Jane Doe Case," PowerPoint Presentation, December 2, 2011.](#)

Second Session, 9 AM to 10 AM

The Provider–Patient Relationship in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health Tools
(Bridgesmith)

- How AI-driven diagnostic apps, chatbots, and wearables are reshaping communication.
- Ethical concerns: maintaining trust when patients bring AI-based insights to the visit.

Preparatory reading: Pranav Rajpurkar, Eric J. Topol, "The Robot Doctor Will See You Now," New York Times, February 2, 2025,
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/02/opinion/ai-doctors-medicine.html>.

Third Session, 10:15 AM to 11:15 AM

Misinformation, Mistrust, and Rebuilding Confidence in Health Care (Bridgesmith)

- Tackling vaccine hesitancy, online misinformation, and conspiracy theories.
- Techniques for respectful dialogue and restoring trust in science and medicine.

Preparatory reading: Jeremy Engle, "How Worried Should We Be About a Resurgence of Once-Common Childhood Diseases?", New York Times, January 29, 2025,
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/29/learning/how-worried-should-we-be-about-a-resurgence-of-once-common-childhood-diseases.html>.

Fourth Session, 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM

Cultural Competence and Fairness in Health Care Delivery (White)

- Addressing cultural beliefs, health literacy barriers, and language differences.
- Practical tools to reduce disparities and strengthen provider–patient rapport.

[Preparatory reading: White BD, "Justice: Bedside Clinical Ethics' Next Great Challenge," PowerPoint Presentation, May 20, 2010.](#)

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Fifth Session, 8 AM to 9 AM

Managing High-Conflict Encounters with Patients and Families (White)

- De-escalation strategies for emotionally charged situations.
- Legal/ethical boundaries when patients refuse care or demand inappropriate therapies.

[Preparatory reading: White BD, "The Family From Hell," PowerPoint Presentation, May 1, 2012.](#)

Sixth Session, 9 AM to 10 AM

Privacy, Confidentiality, and Professional Boundaries in a Social Media World (Bridgesmith)

- Navigating HIPAA, digital communication, and blurred boundaries when patients follow or message providers online.

[Preparatory reading: Federation of State Medical Boards Ethics and Professionalism Committee, "Social Media and Electronic Communications," adopted as policy by the Federation of State Medical Boards, April, 2019.](#)

Seventh Session, 10:15 AM to 11:15 AM

Medication Adherence and the Expanding Role of Pharmacists in Team-Based Care (Srnlka)

- Innovative approaches to improve adherence.
- How physician–pharmacist collaboration strengthens the therapeutic alliance.

Preparatory reading: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "Pharmacy-Based Interventions to Improve Medication Adherence," May 15, 2024,
<https://www.cdc.gov/cardiovascular-resources/php/medication-adherence/index.html>.

Eighth Session, 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM

Burnout, Empathy Fatigue, and Preserving Human Connection (Bridgesmith)

- Balancing efficiency pressures with maintaining empathy in patient interactions.
- Mindfulness and communication tools to sustain provider well-being.

[Preparatory reading: Federation of State Medical Boards Working Group on Physician Wellness and Burnout, "Physician Wellness and Burnout," adopted as policy by the Federation of State Medical Boards, April, 2018.](#)