

Ethics Grand Rounds

Our Words Matter:

Testimonial Injustice and Stigmatizing Language in Healthcare

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The language we use when writing chart notes, communicating through messaging applications, or writing emails about our patients can have an impact on their care even when the recipient of these written messages is another clinician. Our words matter because they carry implicit assumptions which can then accidentally and unintentionally skew the receiving clinician's perspective of the patient and their care needs. There is evidence that this misuse of words in chart notes can lead to misunderstandings, misdiagnoses, missed diagnoses, reputational risk, and erosions of trust in the medical community.

By the end of this presentation, attendees will:

1. Learn how testimonial injustice and stigmatizing language appear in healthcare contexts,
2. Understand the impact of language and word choice on everyday care and patient interactions, and
3. Learn strategies that can be implemented immediately to identify, address, and mitigate stigmatizing language and testimonial injustices.

*Physician attendees will be eligible to receive one Section 1 **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** credit as certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Other attendees may qualify for professional development credits through their respective colleges, at the discretion of those colleges. Links for providing feedback and registering for credit certificates will be available live in the session.*

Registration link: https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lzsy1WcCQFO34Na7cNoPGw

All are welcome! Closed Captioning is available.

Please direct any inquiries to Jordan Wadden (jordan.wadden@unityhealth.to).