

2026 Combined Pain Care Skills & Substance Use Disorder Training Agenda

Ethical Crossroads in Pain Management & SUD: A Bioethics Workshop

Presented by: COL Jeremy Edwards; CPT Erin Scroggins

Offered: 18 August 2026; 0730-1130 AM ET

Location: National Union Building, Washington, DC

Description: This workshop tackles the pressing ethical dilemmas at the intersection of pain management and substance abuse. Through case-based discussions, we will explore the clinical challenges of balancing effective pain relief with addiction risks, respecting patient autonomy in complex cases, and ensuring equitable care. This session is designed for clinicians seeking a framework to navigate these difficult scenarios and improve patient outcomes.

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Analyze the competing ethical principles (beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and justice) in clinical scenarios involving patients with chronic pain and/or a history of substance abuse.
2. Apply ethical decision-making frameworks to complex case studies to navigate the balance between adequate pain relief and the risk of opioid misuse.
3. Understand and apply more advanced bioethics concepts such as the principle of double effect, care ethics, and care of vulnerable populations.

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0730–0800 Introductions and learner-based objectives discussion

0800–0900 Overview of bioethics principles and how to approach an ethical question

0900–0910 Break

0910–0920 Introduction of small group case discussion format

0920–1130 Small group cases and discussion