Award winners

Undergraduate Essay

Title: ***Universality and Comprehensiveness of Medical Abortion Procedures in Canada***

Author: Kandice Power
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Memorial University of Newfoundland

Abstract:

Since the approval of the abortion pill, "Mifegymiso" in Canada, many provinces and territories have yet to commit to full coverage through their medical insurance plans. Mifegymiso is considered an essential medication where permitted under national law with its proven efficacy and low rates of major complications. There is an abundance of evidence on the safety and efficacy of Mifegymiso worldwide, however it remains more regulated than some controlled substances in Canada. While surgical abortion is covered by provincial health care plans across the country, the coverage on medical abortion differs depending on the borders you reside within and the health care card you hold. The central tenant of this paper is that provinces and territories with minimal to no coverage of Mifegymiso are contravening the principles of universality and comprehensiveness of care as outlined in the Canada Health Act. This essay will argue that there is not universal access, nor is there comprehensiveness of care for women seeking a medical abortion in Canada. Mifegymiso is the treatment of choice for a medical abortion therefore health insurance to cover this medication should be available to all women in all provinces and territories. It will also be argued that governments should ensure that there are practitioners willing to prescribe Mifegymiso and pharmacies that stock the medication. It is argued that Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) have the appropriate knowledge of the medication, side effects and adverse reactions, to prescribe, administer and monitor the effects of the drug. Therefore, ANPs should be supported to work to their full scope of practice to ensure universality and comprehensiveness of care for women seeking a medical abortion in Canada.

Master's Essay

Title: ***Sharing the Jurisdiction over Inequitable Health Provision: Who is Responsible for Barriers to Health for Immigrant Communities in Québec?***

Author: Amina Moustaqim-Barrette
School of Population and Public Health
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Abstract:

With immigration on the rise across Canada, it has become increasingly important to monitor immigrant health and healthcare access. This paper explores the implications and legality of amendments made to Québec health legislation in 2001, which imposed a three-month waiting period before non-residents were eligible for care and rendered Canadian children to temporary residents ineligible for health care coverage. I contend that these changes, taken within the context of Québec's 200% surcharge on hospital and medical expenses for non-residents, systematically limits immigrant and newcomer access to health services and effectively creates a two-tiered citizenship in health care provision. I explore how

the 2001 amendments constitute discrimination against immigrant communities and violate both the Canada Health Act's (CHA) principle of universality and rights guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Human Rights. I suggest two main reasons for provincial and federal inaction on this issue. First, that the ambiguity with which the CHA was written represents both an enabling and prohibiting factor in creating barriers to immigrant healthcare access, and second that Québec's unique sociopolitical position in Canada and strong nationalist determination have made it politically inexpedient for both federal and provincial action on this issue.

PhD Essay

Not awarded in 2018.
