



Online Ethics Center  
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

# An Asthmatic Child

## Author(s)

Caroline Whitbeck

## Year

2000

## Description

A scenario meant to stimulate discussion regarding ethical issues in conducting research with children: Parents approach you to ask if their child can be enrolled in a study.

## Body

An asthmatic child comes into the ER who has previously had difficulty with side effects from her medication: feeling jittery, elevated heart rate, and vomiting. The parents want to find a medication that does not have these side effects and have heard about the hospital's efficacy study of a new drug that supposedly has fewer side effects. They want to enroll their child.

## Discussion Questions

- What do you say to them about the advisability of doing so?
- Does the child's age matter?
- Are there factors that would make a relevant difference to what you would say?

## Notes

Caroline Whitbeck introduced methods and modules for discussing numerous issues in responsible conduct of research at a Sigma Xi Forum in 2000. Partial funding for the development of this material came from an NIH grant.

You can find the entire sequence on the OEC at [Scenarios for Ethics Modules in the Responsible Conduct of Research](#). Some information in these historical modules may be out-of-date; for instance, there may be a new edition of the professional society's code that is referred to in an item. If you have suggestions for updates, please contact the OEC.

**Contributor(s)**

Caroline Whitbeck

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**Resource Type**

Open-ended scenario

**Parent Collection**

Scenarios for Ethics Modules in the Responsible Conduct of Research

**Topics**

Human Subjects Research

Research and Practice

Vulnerable Populations

**Discipline(s)**

Life and Environmental Sciences

Research Ethics

**Publisher**

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