

*European Journal of Orthodontics* 32 (2010) 230

doi:10.1093/ejo/cjp168

Advance Access Publication 2 February 2010

## Healthcare research ethics and law regulation, review and responsibility (2009)

Editor: Hazel Biggs

Publisher: Routledge-Cavendish, Taylor Francis Group, Abingdon, Oxford, UK

Price: £25.99

ISBN: 978-0-415-42917-7

This paperback, edited by Hazel Biggs, who is Professor of Medical Law at the University of Southampton, is designed to address ethical issues relevant to medical research. At 188 A5 pages, it is compact. The book is one of a series of 12 on various biomedical law and ethics topics.

The book concentrates on the place of ethics in medical research and explains the relationship between the law and ethical standards. Those involved with research ethics committees, as either reviewers or reviewed, will recognize many of the important matters addressed. There are eight chapters in total and detailed attention is given to consent, confidentiality, research on vulnerable groups, human tissue, and clinical trials. Orthodontists will be particularly interested in those sections concerning children and the issues of consent for clinical work and research.

The writing has clarity and precision. Complicated issues are well explained. Terms are clearly defined and distinctions are drawn between terms and concepts that are often confused. The great strength of the text is that detailed reference is made to 65 cases of legal precedence and 32 United Kingdom and European Statutes that underpin the understanding and interpretation of research ethics practice. For those involved in clinical governance and good clinical practice, the book identifies not only what is to be done but also why it is important.

The book succeeds in explaining the subtle differences that exist between the law and the standards and protocols of research ethics. I would recommend this small interesting book to anyone planning to conduct medical research.

Neil Pender

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