



Society of Rural Physicians of Canada
27TH ANNUAL RURAL AND REMOTE MEDICINE COURSE
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SESSION 100A - Plenary

Urban Mistakes about Rural Care: Rethinking Rural Health Ethics

Traditional, mainstream approaches to health care ethics are largely urban-centric and have primarily been developed in the context of acute, highly specialized care settings. These approaches to health care ethics have led to key mistakes and misunderstandings about providing care in rural settings. This presentation will identify these mistakes and provide a basis for rethinking health care ethics as understood from a rural perspective. This includes challenging the 'deficit' and 'utopia' stereotypes about rural health care. It also includes discussing other relevant values in the rural context that have not been fully explored or taken into account when we examine health ethics issues, including the values of community and place, and a need to "revalue" relationships.

1. Identify urban-based mistakes about rural health care.
2. Describe the impact of these mistakes on the ethics of practice in rural health care.
3. Discuss the basis for rethinking rural health ethics and the implications for what this may mean in practice, such as the inclusion of the values of community and place.