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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q12

Case study. Dr. Srinivasan is a senior scientist working for a reputed biotechnology company. He is heading a research team working on a new drug aimed at treating a rapidly spreading viral infectious disease. There is huge pressure to expedite the trials. Senior team members suggest shortcuts: manipulating data to exclude some negative outcomes, foregoing informed consent, and using compounds already patented by a rival company. Dr. Srinivasan is not comfortable taking such shortcuts, at the same time he realises meeting the targets is impossible without using these means. (a) What would you do in such a situation? (b) Examine your options and consequences in the light of the ethical questions involved. (c) How can data ethics and drug ethics save humanity at large in such a scenario?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · GS IV · 20 marks · Ethics Case Studies

Case Studies on above issues.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Declaration of Helsinki

The core statement that medical research on humans needs consent, independent review, and that the subject is not a mere means to science.

Informed consent

A person's understood, voluntary agreement to a trial; skipping it in a hurry is an ethics and often a legal failure, not a technical shortcut.

Data integrity

Raw results, including negative ones, must remain reconstructable; dropping outcomes to hit a target is scientific fraud.

Compulsory licensing

A public-law route in some emergencies to use a patented invention on terms; it is not the same as secretly using a rival's compound in a lab.

Clinical equipoise

The honest uncertainty that justifies putting a person in a trial arm; fake data destroys the justification itself.

Pharmacovigilance

Watching a drug after approval; it only works if the pre-approval file was not a fiction.

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